



# Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

## September 2021

### The Rector writes.....

Parishioners passing Holy Trinity Church in Frankfield in recent weeks, may have noticed scaffolding shrouding part of the exterior. Important maintenance to tackle a long term problem with damp, as well as potential dangers posed by a discrete if corroded and leaning chimney on the apex of the sanctuary roof, was delayed due to the Covid restrictions. At last, this work has begun. Church buildings are expensive to maintain and ironically can be more so when they are closed for worship for considerable periods. Lack of heat and regular ventilation can cause problems!



Now as we face into the autumn period, when the health restrictions are being further reduced and we can enjoy larger numbers at our services in church, it seems a good time to reflect on the place of church buildings in the life of the Christian community and in our own personal faith. Churches are sacred spaces, places deliberately set aside by previous generations for the exclusive use of people seeking to meet with God in worship and meet others who are on a similar path in life.

In a recent sermon I posed the question, **'Is it right to spend all this money on our church buildings?'** After all, in this parish we have four beautiful churches all within easy reach of each other by car. Do we need them all and do they continue to serve a purpose? In the sermon I reflected on the fact that, in terms of their art and architecture, church buildings represent the relationship between God and the people. In addition, they remind us of the importance of passing on the Christian Faith to each successive generation. That is an ever increasing and urgent challenge, but the solution lies with the importance the parents put on church involvement and the way the local parish engages with them to meet their needs. Finally, I drew attention to the fact that churches are a visible landmark, and they can be a beacon of welcome to the visitor, the curious seeker and the refugee. Holy Trinity Church in Frankfield has always been a place of welcome to those who have spent time in the Accommodation Centre on the Kinsale Road. Having a church building which is easy to find, is an important advantage over

those congregations which meet in private homes or in premises rented for use on Sunday mornings.

This fact was brought home to me at an early communion service in Blackrock recently. Attending was a man I had never met before. In conversation with him briefly after the service he told me that he regularly works very close to the church and always wanted to see inside and attend a service. I told him he would be welcome at our services any time! That very same Sunday, as the back door of the church remained open for ventilation, I saw a man standing in the gravel churchyard looking in. He was only visible to me. He remained there for the full duration of the service, and it was obvious that he was watching and following everything which he could hear outside. At times he was deep in prayer. At the end of the service, I gave the blessing. At this he bowed acknowledging that worship was over. Once I got to the door he was gone and so I never met him. However, it reminded me of the importance of sacred space and the visible presence of worship in the local community. I hope that man was blessed by what he heard and saw that day.

I began my sermon by asking, is it right to spend money on church buildings? I concluded with the following caveat. **'If the church building is a place where people genuinely meet with God, where individuals and families can journey together in faith, where the stranger and those on the margins find a welcome, where people can experience, to some extent, heaven on earth – the answer is a resounding yes!'**

Yours in Christ,

*Adrian.*

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 again 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 last year and a half 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.

### **The Canon Packham Hall**

As you all know, the Canon Packham Hall has been closed for all parish activities since March of last year. The only exception to this was its use by St Luke's National School as an overflow venue for certain classes and activities, as well as being a store for the surplus school furniture which had to be removed to make the classrooms Covid compliant. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting clear guidance from the government and health authorities regarding the

resumption of indoor meetings, events and activities. The firm hope is that, when it is possible and all the necessary cleaning, ventilation, as well as health and safety requirements are put in place, the Hall will be open again, subject to certain conditions. The Canon Packham Hall Committee, under the chairmanship of Uwe Schiller, will be issuing an invitation to all users to explain the new procedures when we have clarity on this matter. It is important that at least one representative from all organisations which use the premises attend this meeting. The Parish Office will be notifying people regarding this meeting in the near future.

To prepare for reopening, a number of maintenance issues have been attended to over the summer. These include clearing blocked drains, repainting the exterior woodwork as well as some of the masonry, repairing damaged gutters and lead flashing on the flat roof extension, internal repairs to doors, kitchen cupboards as well as other general maintenance. I want to thank the Hall Committee who have overseen this work and indeed have done some of it themselves to cut down on costs. Those involved include Uwe Schiller, John French, Tom Chambers, David Shine, Ivan Johnston and John Sweetnam. We are very grateful to them.

Obviously despite the generosity of time on the part of these parishioners, there have been costs incurred. In the past year, when the Hall was unused, there was no income received. We have had to dig into reserves to fund this maintenance. Hopefully those who will return to use the premises will appreciate the work done in recent months. We want the Canon Packham Hall to be fit for purpose as an attractive and comfortable place for use by the parish and the wider community. *A. Wilkinson*

## Recent Baptisms

The resumption of baptisms at our Sunday morning services is an important step back towards normality. Here



are some pictures of the baptisms that took place in St Luke's church on three successive Sundays in August. It



brought joy to the parishioners to be able to welcome these children into the family of the Church. We pray for

Sophia, Theo and Molly, their parents and godparents.



Almighty God, bless the homes of these children and give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of them

that by their word and good example they may teach them to know and love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer © RCB 2004*

## Retirement

At the end of this month, Florence Binions retires as organist of St Michael's Church in Blackrock. Florence has played the organ there virtually every Sunday for well over 20 years. Before that, she was a loyal member of the choir in St Luke's Church and will be known to generations of pupils from St Luke's National School from her time as a teacher there.

Florence is a very skilled organist who always put in many hours of preparation into each service. Her enthusiastic accompaniment to the hymns will be much missed by all in St Michael's, as will her support of the clergy and lay readers taking the services. There will be an opportunity to formally thank her after the Harvest Thanksgiving in Blackrock on Sunday 26 September. We wish Florence God's blessing in all that she undertakes into the future.

## Friday Walks in August.

Thanks to those who joined in the walks we held in different parts of the parish on Fridays in August.

It was good to see people of all ages come and participate, including three generations of one family! Here are some photos of walkers enjoying coffee and conversation in the Community Park in Douglas having walked through Ballybrack Woods on Friday 27 August.



**The Parish Office Reopens** Now that we are in the month of September, Paula will be working again from the Parish Office. Please make an appointment if you need to call to deliver or collect something and observe all the usual health and safety requirements when indoors. You can also keep in touch with Paula by phone and email.

# Church Services – September 2021

<b>Wednesday 1 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 5 September</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 8 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<i>Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (White)</i>			
<b>Sunday 12 September</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
15 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 15 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 19 September</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 22 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 26 September</b>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
17 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
Green	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Harvest Thanksgiving	Blackrock
<b>Wednesday 29 September</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Blackrock (NB)
<i>St Michael and All Angels (White)</i>			

## **Parish Contacts:**

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Parish Office Tel: 4369578. E-mail: [douglasofficecork@gmail.com](mailto:douglasofficecork@gmail.com) (The Parish Office is closed in July and August so all calls should be directed to the Rector or Rev. Hazel Minion if he is not available)

Parish Website: [www.douglas.cork.anglican.org](http://www.douglas.cork.anglican.org) Facebook @douglasunionfrankfield

Follow us on Twitter: @DouglasUnion

## Confirmation Services

The Service of Confirmation for this Union of Parishes will now take place on Saturday 18 September when all of the candidates will be confirmed in St Luke's Church in Douglas at 11am. Those being confirmed are Laura Barry, James Cotter, Alanna Curtin, Molly Creedon, Alexandra Dale, Sophie Dale, Jamie Dorgan, Bradley Ehizode, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Aisling Hanafin, Christy Hosford, Olan Hosford, Shane Kingston, Colm McCarthy, Denis McCarthy, Louis McDaid, Alexandra Rockly, Ethan Ryan, Abby Shorten, Holly Smith and Jessica Swanton. Despite the long wait, we pray that these services will be a meaningful step for each one of them in their faith and discipleship.

## Our links with the Indian Orthodox Church



On Sunday 29 August, the Rector met with the Revd Fr Mathew K Mathew, at St Michael's Church in Blackrock. Fr Mathew is a priest of The Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Syrian Church and is the newly appointed vicar to their congregations in Waterford, Galway and Cork. He is based in Waterford and was meeting the congregation and presiding at his first service in the church that afternoon.

Fr Mathew is from Kerala in south India. He

studied at the Orthodox Theological Seminary at Kottayam between 2008 and 2013.

Before coming to Ireland a few weeks ago, he was chaplain at Mar Gregorios Orthodox Chapel there, as well as chaplain at St Thomas Orthodox congregation at Manipal in Karnataka.

For well over a decade, the Indian Orthodox community in Cork and Kerry has worshipped in St Michael's. Speaking about this ongoing link Archdeacon Wilkinson said, *'over the years I have met all of Fr Mathew's predecessors who have ministered here in Cork. I have also had the privilege of meeting their bishop when he visits Ireland. It has been an enriching link for us, and we are delighted that the Indian Orthodox community uses our church on a regular basis for their liturgies. I extend a very warm welcome to Fr Mathew and hope that he will know God's blessing as he begins a new chapter in his ministry here in Ireland.'*



(Photos of Fr Mathew being greeted by the Rector and Denis Hinchion (Churchwarden). Also in pictures Bijoy from the Indian Orthodox congregation.)