



# Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

October 2021

## The Rector writes.....

As I write this letter, I am preparing to attend the **Church of Ireland General Synod**. It is usually held in May, but we continue to have to adapt to the changing circumstances and time frames forced upon us by the pandemic. Again, this year it will be held virtually and so I will be sitting in my study, joining in with hopefully hundreds of others from across the island of Ireland. It is hoped that the General Synod will take place in person next year in Dublin.

One of the things I enjoy about the General Synod, when it gathers in normal circumstances, is the opportunity to meet people. In some cases, I renew old acquaintances and friendships and in others I make new connections to people I may know of but have never had the chance to engage with properly. We are a diverse church, holding together people of different political persuasions, church affiliations and age profiles. This can lead to stimulating contributions in the debates where people sometimes come to the podium and proclaim to the assembled members that they have not agreed with one word spoken by the previous contributor! But that is a good thing. Openness and honesty in debate and deliberation is important, so long as it is done courteously, and with an attitude which recognises the *bona fides* of others who may have a very different perspective.

We live in a world where things have become increasingly polarised. People can easily adopt views at the extreme ends of the perspective. Social media allows us to inhabit the echo chamber of our own opinions and to remain there with others who always agree with us. From this vantage point, we can criticise or even hurl abuse at others who occupy different positions. We don't have to listen to them and hear the valuable points that they may have to make. Meeting up physically means that we must look each other in the eye, and this so often leads to much more fruitful engagement and even to the exchange of ideas.

This month we are entering what we hope will be a final phase where restrictions and regulations will be lifted, but personal responsibility remains. While Covid-19 will never disappear, what was a pandemic will now become endemic. The scars of the last 18 months, which have been inflicted on individuals, families, communities, and society in general, will remain. The scars of the pandemic on the life of the church are also there for all to see. But scars represent healing and past trauma. Scars are part of who we are now, and we move forward with them.. Those who have returned to our church services have said how wonderful it is to see people again and talk afterwards in the open air. I look forward to seeing you in church in the coming weeks.

Yours in Christ,

*Adrian.*



## St Luke's School Notes

It was lovely to open our doors this September and welcome everyone back in the hope that we will enjoy a more “Normal” school year. We were delighted to see our 24 new Junior Infants and new pupils who joined various classes in the school – we hope that they will have many happy years with us in St Luke's. Despite the Covid 19 restrictions we managed to organise an outdoor end of term Assembly in June which was zoomed to parents when we said “Good bye” to our 6th Class and presented our awards to the following pupils:

Val Jago Shield: 6th Class – Hannah Treacy, Niamh Kirwan, Jack Kiely, Emanuel Vaticone. 5th Class – Zack Carey-Younan, Tom Cromie, Isabelle Healy, Heidi Fitzpatrick, Flack Handwriting Trophy: Cillian McCarthy, Gash Squaddy of the Year: Chloe Noctor, Gradam Mháire Roycroft: Katie Kingston, Bean Uí Chaoimh (Gaeilge) Trophy: Isabelle Donovan, Megan Smith, Coombes Shield for Sportsmanship: Jamie Dorgan , Andrew Chambers Memorial Award (most promising hockey player): Jody Bateman, Congratulations to Patrick McCarthy who won 1st prize in an Anti Dog Fouling Poster competition.

## St. Michael's Notes

We are delighted to be back at school in St Michael's for the start of the 2021/2022 school year. This year we welcomed 100 pupils when we reopened at the end of August. There have been some exciting changes over the course of the summer. We opened our second Special Class, the Hawthorn Room and we were delighted to welcome two new members of staff, Wendy Sweeney, who is currently teaching 3rd and 4th Class and Daniel O'Sullivan who is our new SNA. We would like to send warm congratulations to Laura Mc Sweeney on the birth of her baby boy Theo. Aisling Breen has stepped in to cover Laura's maternity leave. We welcomed Laura Reckmann and Emily Wolfgramm, two teaching students from Germany for their 6 week placement with us. Robbie Carroll from St Finbarre's Cathedral Choir will be returning to St Michael's every Friday for singing with all classes from 1st to 6th Class. We must say a huge thank you to our Parents' Association who have organised a volunteer committee to maintain the grounds of the school. An incredible amount of work was carried out to prepare the school for reopening in August. We are very saddened to share the news of the passing of an integral member of our school community. Tim Foley passed suddenly but peacefully in September. Since Tim's children joined our school he had been a tireless volunteer, helping the school, and the school community in any and every way he could. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, Fiona, Doireann and Sadhbh.





## Harvest Thanksgivings

Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held in St Mary's Church Marmullane, Holy Trinity Church Frankfield and St Luke's Church Douglas on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

## Climate Change

The issue of climate change has been a focus of attention in recent months. We will be using specially prepared liturgical resources on this theme at our services on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

## Parish Prayers

Would you value the opportunity to be part of a small group of parishioners who meet on Zoom each month to pray? This group uses the Late Evening Office from the Book of Common Prayer to frame their thoughts and prayers and they are always open to include new people who would like to be involved. Generally, this prayer group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7.30pm and sets the date for the next one at the end of each service. It is coordinated by Kieran Hogan. If you would like to be involved, please contact either of the clergy and we will pass on your details to Kieran so that he can email you the Zoom link. As the nights draw in and people are less inclined to go out to meetings or events, you might enjoy the opportunity to spend a half hour in the company of others on Zoom.

## Parish Bible Study Group

This autumn we will be holding a fortnightly Bible Study Group on Zoom. Each session will be led by one of the clergy or by parishioners who have been involved in this before. It is a chance for us to engage with a short passage of scripture and to share some thoughts and discussion. If you haven't been involved before, why not try it this time? You don't need any specialist knowledge. It is just a time to listen, ask questions and offer a view alongside others. Full details and the Zoom link will be circulated shortly.

**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. Please note the office will be closed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October and will reopen on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.



# Church Services – October 2021

<b>Sunday 3 October</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	9.45	Harvest Thanksgiving	Passage
Green	10.00	Harvest Thanksgiving	Frankfield
	11.15	Harvest Thanksgiving	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
<b>Wednesday 6 October</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 10 October</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
19 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Trinity	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 13 October</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 17 October</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Wednesday 20 October</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 24 October</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
5 <sup>th</sup> Sun. before Advent	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Wednesday 27 October</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. before Advent	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

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Follow us on Twitter: @DouglasUnion

## Retirement of Florence Binions

At the end of last month, Florence Binions retired as organist of St Michael's Church in Blackrock where she had played the organ for almost 26 years. Florence is a very skilled organist who always put many hours of preparation into each service. Her energetic and enthusiastic accompaniment of the hymns was the hallmark of her ministry at the manual. We wish her God's blessing in all that she undertakes in the future.



## COP26 Glasgow: 31 October – 12 November

Parishes across the Church of Ireland are being encouraged to choose a Sunday before the 26th United Nations Climate Change Summit Conference (COP26) to focus on our environment and Climate Change. Consequently, in this parish, we will use specially prepared liturgical resources at our Church Services on Sunday 17th October to think about and pray for the future of our planet and the decisions that lie ahead for all governments and for each of us individually.

(Based on an initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and supported by eco-congregation-ireland, of which our parish is a member.)

Please also remember the leaders of this Conference in your own private prayers.

**An Chomaoineach Naofa:** Every month on the second Saturday at Noon there is a celebration of Holy Communion in Irish in St Fin Barre's Cathedral . Beidh fáilte romhat / you will be welcome. Bilingual printed texts are provided so that whatever level of Irish you have, you will be able to follow the service. The next two services are on 9th October and 13th November and will be live-streamed on the Cathedral website: [www.corkcathedral.webs.com](http://www.corkcathedral.webs.com)

**In need of prayer?** Remember you can request the supportive daily prayer of the Parish Prayer chain at any time. They will pray for you in their private prayers and you will be remembered every day for as long as you need. Pass on your request through the clergy.



**Cork Autism Online Conference 2021** - Thriving with Autism. Sunday, October 17th. This online conference offers practical strategies and insights to support children and adults on the autism spectrum. Suitable for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistic Individuals, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. Learn more: [www.autismcork.ie](http://www.autismcork.ie)

## Confirmation in St Luke's



Congratulations to the 21 young people in the parish who were confirmed in St Luke's Church on Saturday 18 September. It was good that the whole group could be together again on the day of the confirmation, particularly when they had waited so long for this service to be held.

In his sermon, the Bishop reminded us all that over the centuries, despite war, famine, plague, shortages and other difficulties periods in life, people have

always continued to be confirmed and to journey with God into the future. Faith is there for both the good times and the bad. God is always with us.

## St Michael and All Angels



Despite the Covid restrictions, the Rector has continued to maintain regular school assemblies in both parish schools. These have to be held outdoors in the playground. On Wednesday 29th September, which is the feast of St Michael and All Angels, a special school assembly was held in St Michael's National School, before the patronal Eucharist in St Michael's Church in Blackrock. At this assembly the Rector was presented with two

vases of michaelmas daisies, which had been grown by the pupils in the school. After assembly, they were brought into the church and placed behind the communion table for all to see. This represented in a very tangible way, our important parish/school links. We thank the children and staff for this thoughtful gesture.

