

Parish Matters



Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

June 2022

The Rector writes.....

I begin my letter this month with a good news announcement! I am delighted to inform you that I have nominated the **Revd Jean Carney** to be my next curate, and the Bishop has approved this nomination. After a gap of a couple of years, it will be good to have a full-time ordained colleague in the parish and a new clerical resident at 64 Willowbank in Blackrock.

Jean comes to us with considerable experience of life and ministry. She has been a primary school teacher for many years, as well as being a Diocesan Reader in Limerick and Killaloe Diocese. She has spent the past year of her studies as a deacon working in the parish of Cloughjordan while she completed her master's degree in theology. Elsewhere in this newsletter she will introduce herself. Suffice to say, I am delighted that Jean will be joining the ministry team here in Douglas Union with Frankfield, and we assure her of a warm welcome when she is ordained as priest later this year.

Another good news announcement is that on Sunday 12 June, **Dr Richard Scriven**, one of our parishioners from Blackrock, will be licensed by the Bishop as a Diocesan Reader to serve in this parish. We are delighted that Richard, a former churchwarden and currently a member of the school Board of Management in St Michael's Blackrock, is taking this next step in his ministry. Richard's academic background includes a doctorate in the geography and spirituality of pilgrimage. We hope many parishioners will join him in St Fin Barre's Cathedral as he marks this

significant step on his Christian pilgrimage. The service is at 3.30 that day and all are most welcome to attend.

This month begins with one of the most important festivals in the church calendar – **Pentecost**. On this Sunday each year we recall the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples equipping them for mission and ministry. That same Holy Spirit is working in the world today calling people to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in what they do, by how they live and in what they say. For some, this involves a formal commitment to some form of recognised ministry in the Church. Ordination is for some and being a Diocesan Reader leading worship is for others. I am leaving information leaflets in all four of our churches explaining what is involved in training for Ordained Local Ministry and as a Diocesan Reader. Please take them and read them if you are interested in exploring this a little further.

However, all of us have gifts given to us by God. What are your strengths? How can you serve? One area of ministry that is vitally important is working with children and young people. We need people who will show how the Christian faith is something relevant to all ages. We need people who will run youth activities and volunteer to teach at Sunday School. Is this something you have a passion for? If so, please talk to me.

Yours in Christ,

Adrian.

Diocesan Synod

We look forward to the Diocesan Synod, which this year will be held in the Rochestown Park Hotel, on Saturday 11 June. It will be preceded by a Celebration of Holy Communion in St Luke's Church at 9.30. It will be good to meet again in person, to review the activities of the past year and look to the future with vision and confidence.

Our **monthly parish prayer meetings** will continue over the summer on Thursday July 14th and Thursday August 4th at 19.30pm on Zoom. Please email douglasprayergroup@icloud.com if you would like the link. Each meeting lasts for just 30 minutes and all the prayers and readings are displayed on screen. Everybody is welcome to contribute personal prayers or intercessions if they wish or you can just read along! If you've never joined before, why not give it a try? *By Kieran Hogan*



Confirmation Celebrations

It was good to have a large congregation in St Luke's Church on Sunday 15 May when sixteen of our parishioners were confirmed by the Bishop. They were Emma Baker, Lucy Baker, Emma Barry, Zac Clibborn, Lara Coffey, Tom Cromie, Max Dorgan, Lexi Dunne, Nellie Ehizode, Cian Fitzpatrick, Charles Ibebugwu, Cory Kinnear

Leasley, Alison Gash O'Flynn, Aoife Pittaway, Robert Smith and Zack Younan Carey. We remember them in our prayers as they continue their journey of faith and discipleship.



End of Year School Services June sees the end of the academic year for all pupils in primary school. As usual we will mark this with special services for both St Michael's in Blackrock and St Luke's in Douglas. The graduation service in St Michael's is happening on Friday 10th June at 9.30am. In St Luke's, it takes place on the last day of term which is Wednesday 29th June. At both services, we look forward to having the whole school community together again, as well as many parents, grandparents and some board representatives.

This month we also think of all those at second level who are sitting state examinations. We hope that all their hard work, despite the disruptions of the last couple of years, will be rewarded when the results are issued in the early autumn.

End of School Year Prayer for those in Primary Schools

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 State Examinations

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



Revd Hazel Minion

It was good to be able to surprise Revd Hazel Minion with a small presentation after the service in St Luke's on Sunday 29 May. The Sunday before she had celebrated a significant birthday. As a result, her status in the Diocese changes and she becomes one of the clergy who has 'permission to officiate'. In practice it means that she will continue to serve in Douglas Union with Frankfield as an assistant priest in the parish.

I know I speak for many of you when I say that we are grateful for Hazel's ministry among us, and we thank her for being so willing to fill any gaps that emerge from time to time. She also has her own distinctive ministry through her involvement in the Parish Prayer Chain. Thank you, Hazel, for all you do and will continue to do in this parish. *Adrian*



Looking back...

First of all, a very big thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers presented to me by churchwarden Leslie Deane in St Luke's last Sunday. My birthday celebrations have gone on for nearly three weeks at this stage! Thank you also to Adrian for his kind words, so much appreciated at this time when my position within the parish and the diocese is changing. But I'm not going anywhere in a hurry! I am thankful that my work here will continue with few obvious changes for a while yet. Leading worship on Sundays, meeting and getting to know the rich variety of people in our parish, visiting in your own homes, especially those unable to get out and about, supporting people in difficult times and joining in fun events in the parish – in summary being part of the parish team - are all tremendous privileges – thank you. You enable me to discover and fulfil my vocation as a priest.

When I started in the Autumn of 2007, Adrian suggested that I should take on a project to be my own. He offered me several choices and the one that appealed was to set up some system of praying for those who are ill or in other difficulties – a healer prayer group. From our discussions emerged the Parish Prayer Chain, and we put out a call for those interested. Six people volunteered; I met with them and, there were seven of us, and seven days in a week! So each day one of us prays for all those who request it. Sadly three of the original group have since died. We give thanks to God for their faithful service, (others have joined) and for the faithfulness of our present band of prayers.

It is a particular privilege to pray for others. Archbishop Justin Welby has said: "Prayer moves us closer not only to God, but to one another...Prayer breaks down division, In prayer we take each other's hands and find our safe stronghold."

Hazel Minion



Parish Prayer Chain

It has come to our notice that during Covid some of our Prayer Request boxes have gone missing. These are now being replaced, so if you have a prayer request, you can simply write a note giving a first name and, if you wish, a few details, and pop in in the box at the back of any of our churches. Or simply give your request to one of the clergy who will then pass it on for daily prayer. If your request is for someone else, please ensure that they know you are doing this first.

All requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

St Luke's School Notes During this summer term in St Luke's School there has been a huge focus on Sporting Activities. All Classes have been involved in Athletic training and 3rd Class enjoyed an Athletic Blitz in MTU organised by Cork Sports Partnership. After school tag rugby, swimming and soccer are also in full swing. The standard of baking in 6th Class is very high this year and worthy to be in any TV "Bake Off" as we saw when they organised a Cake Sale and Raffle in May for the other pupils in the school. We were very proud of our 6th Class pupils who were confirmed recently. Congratulations and every blessing to all concerned. We were delighted to welcome the cast of Robin Hood from the West Midlands Theatre Group back to St Luke's. It was wonderful to have a live performance for the whole school again. Movie Night was a huge success, "Sing 2" was enjoyed by young and not so young! Some creative people dressed up as their favourite movie character which added to the entertainment. 675euro was raised for school funds. Thank you very much to the Parents' Association for putting a huge effort into the evening. The Parents' Association are now busy organising their Toy Fair and Summer Family Bar-B-Q which they haven't been able to host for three years. We all appreciate being able to go to these social events and enjoy each other's company once again. All of our classes are now looking forward to their school tours. Various classes are off to Leahy's Farm, West Cork Secret, Rosscarbery Smugglers Cove, Ballyhass Lakes, Let's Go in Little Island and Just for Fun in Colaiste Stiofain Naofa. We will soon welcome our Junior Infants Class of 2022 to an Open Afternoon when they can see their classroom and meet their teacher. We will also be saying "Good Bye" to our 6th Class and wishing them well in the next stage of their education.



St. Michael's School Notes We are coming to the end of a very busy Third Term at St Michael's! We were delighted to take our classes on school tour for the first time since 2019! Juniors to 2nd had a fantastic day at Leahy's Pet Farm, 3rd to 6th Class enjoyed a trip To Ballyhass Outdoor Adventure Centre and the Hawthorn Room visited the Crawford Art Gallery. The Cork Pops Orchestra Quartet will be performing for us in St Michael's Church on Wednesday, 8th of June. Our pupils are looking forward to their sports day on the 13th of June and a Football Blitz on the 16th of June. As we come to the end of the academic year we want to thank our wonderful pupils for the kindness they have shown to each other and for working so hard in all of their classes. We are very



proud of our pupils. I also want to say a thank you to our incredible staff who each day make St Michael's a fun and welcoming place to learn.

Revd Jean Carney introduces herself.



I was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and spent my formative years in Chatham, Ontario before marrying my husband Wayne and moving to Toronto. During my years in Toronto, I managed to work for a candy company while completing B.A. degrees in Geography, Sociology and a B. Ed degree. Moving to Ireland in 1995, I was able to continue teaching and taught myself Irish and procured a position in Lusmagh in County Offaly.

I am now a clergy widow and have two children. Kathleen and her family live in France, while my son, Brian, and his family live in my hometown of Chatham. Currently, I am serving as Deacon in the Cloughjordan Group of Parishes and am really looking forward to completing my M.Th. so that I may be ordained and serve in the Parishes of Douglas Union with Frankfield where I know I will be warmly received. Greetings to all and I hope to be with you soon.

St Mary's Hall Upgrade



In recent weeks, some of the old wooden window frames in the parish hall beside St Mary's Church in Passage West have been replaced. While more work still must be done, the replacement windows look very well. St Mary's Hall is now a very comfortable venue with its upgraded heating, new roof, refurbished floor

and new insulation. All this work has been done on a phased basis over several years, as money became available and in response to some very generous donations. We thank all those who gave their time, talents, and money to bring this facility up to such a good standard. We hope it will be well used by the parish and wider community in Passage West in the months ahead.



Eco Notes by Gay Elmes

William Shakespeare, Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd,
And every fair from fair sometimes declines,
By chance or natures changing course untrimm'd:
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest,
Nor shall death brag thou wandrest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest,
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.



This is a love song written for an unknown mystery lady in Shakespeare's life but, as with much of his writing, it has a double meaning. The passage of time, or accident or sickness can veil the beauty that captured him and the memory of her beauty will not fade, even after she has passed away.

We can easily apply these timeless thoughts to our own experiences today. Our farms, gardens and wild landscapes are looking glorious at the moment but we all know "Summer's lease hath all too short a date". So we live in hope that the seasons will continue and to ensure this we must think of the pressing problem of our day that is Climate Change. We have to decide what we can do individually to reduce our carbon footprints and manage our lives in different ways. It is the biggest challenge we have ever faced in the last 70 years and it is affecting every person on our small blue planet. Creation is our gift from God and we have an obligation to pass it on to the next generation in good working order.

"So long as men can breathe or eyes can see , So long lives this, and this gives life to thee."

Celebrations after the O'Riordan Family baptism.



CHURCH SERVICES – June 2022



Wednesday 1 June	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sunday 5 June	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Pentecost</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Red	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Sunday 12 June	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Sunday 19 June	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sunday after Trinity</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
Sunday 26 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	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

(*Wednesday Holy Communion Services will only be on the 1st Wednesday for the summer months*)

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