



Advent & Christmas Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

December 2022

The Curate writes.....

This month has gone extremely fast with preparations for Advent, for the 'coming' of the Christ child with his message of peace and good will to all. At the time of writing, our Ecumenical Carol Service in Marmullane, Passage West on 11th December is yet to take place, as well as carol services in Douglas and Frankfield on 18th December. I cannot wait to hear the brass band playing the carols and see St. Michael's Church, Blackrock lit up with only lanterns and candles on 18th December. The beauty of a candlelit service is always inspiring. (Saves on electricity too!)

Recently, I have met a number of people who have expressed displeasure when they see the sign 'Xmas'. One would think that they are taking Christ out of Christmas, but in fact, they are not. I was told years ago that X is the Greek symbol for Christ. So the joke is on anyone thinking that they are getting away with secularizing Christmas by writing Xmas. There are many stories about who started changing it to Xmas. I particularly like the one where a young curate in New York State in the USA was having difficulty fitting the word Christmas on the sign in front of the church. Being a Greek scholar he decided he could put Xmas instead. The word spread; the curate was fired. So you will only see this curate writing out Christmas!

Tuesday, 29th November was a very special day as I received my Master in Theology degree from Trinity College, Dublin. Despite hair loss, nights of despair and days of dread, I managed to complete and pass my dissertation. The thrill of receiving my degree was fantastic.

I would like to pay tribute to the choir, the wardens and all those who have been so helpful in assisting me the past few months. We are looking forward to the coming of a new Rector for our parish in the new year and I can certainly attest that Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield is a fantastic place to be.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas and may we always remember to keep Christ at the heart of all we do.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Yours in Christ,

Jean



Baptisms:

We are delighted to have welcomed Oscar, son of Jackie Cotter and Simon Vazquez, who was baptised on Sunday, 23rd October in St. Luke's Church, Douglas, Luna Rose Daly, daughter of India Williams-Salter and Cathal Daly in Holy Trinity Church, Frankfield on Sunday, 6th November and Abigail and

Sabrina, daughters of Catherine and Louw Roodt on Sunday, 20th November. We look forward to continuing to assist them on their faith journey.

Advance notices:

Sunday, 8th of January is the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. All those who were baptised in 2022 are invited to a special service in St. Luke's Church in Douglas at the 11:15 service.

Monday, 16th January, parents and those candidates wishing to be confirmed will meet in Canon Packham Hall at 7:00 pm to discuss the Confirmation class timetable. Anyone who is Garda vetted and would like to assist with the classes, please contact me. *Rev. Jean*

Bishop of Cork's Pastoral Care Fund. There are still sheets available at the back of the church. To donate online <http://cork.anglican.org/charties/bishop-of-cork-pastoral-care-fund/> or Bank transfer details: Bishop of Cork Pastoral Care Fund Iban – IE 05BOFI90276835601121 Bic – BOFIE2D

Do you need confidential help or financial support? If so don't hesitate to contact me. We are in for a difficult time ahead with rising fuel and food prices. For those who have lost jobs this year it will be particularly difficult. If you are in need or know of someone who could use a little assistance, please contact me and I will do what I can to provide help and support. *J. Carney*

Coffee Morning in Marmullane Hall, Passage West on Saturday 10th December from 10am-12noon. All welcome



Prayers in time of need: Even as most of us celebrate Christmas with joy, there are those who will find the challenges of illness or distress even harder to bear this time of year. If you or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please pass on a message through either of the clergy to the parish Prayer Chain. They will pray for you every day, even during the Christmas season, and beyond. We thank them for their faithfulness and commitment.

St. Michael's School Notes



We have been very busy at St Michael's since our last update. Some pupils along with our principal Ms Quill attended the Anniversary Celebrations of the Collegiate Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Youghal which culminated in a celebratory service on Sunday, 23rd October. We were over the moon to welcome back Ms Bowden to the Willow Room where she has been missed by the whole school community. The Oak Room has enjoyed wonderful lessons with teaching practice student Ms Dorney. We will miss Ms Dorney and wish her well for the rest of her studies. Last year's Chestnut Room with the guidance of Ms Sweeney, participated in Cork City Council's dog

fouling awareness "Design a Poster campaign". Well done to Aobh Gallagher, Tomás Harrington, Paige Minihaane, Emily Southgate, Juno Hegarty, Daria Yurchanka and Ben Foley who won a €25 Smyths voucher each for their posters.

The Chestnut Room pupils thoroughly enjoyed their Cycle Right programme which has built their confidence and skills no end. They cycled along the Blackrock Line on their last session. Green and Yellow days have been occurring often lately as we have supported the Blackrock Footballers in their recent matches. We were delighted to have a visit from John Holly and players from St Michael's GAA with the Senior, Under 19 and Junior B County Champion Cups. We will be starting Tennis in St Michael's Lawn Tennis Club with Ted in the coming weeks. Welcome done to pupils from 3rd to 6th class who recently took part in Hockey Ireland's non competitive primary school blitz which took place in Garryduff in October. Thank you to Sarah Murtagh for all her fabulous coaching and organising this blitz.

Well done to Fiachra Morrish Wheeler and Eli Cassidy who represented our school at the Cork Child Friendly City Forum in City Hall on the 21st of November. They presented their poster and project on pupil voice in our school. The Lord Mayor Cllr Deirdre Forde was very impressed by their presentation, as were we. A big thank you to parent Trevor Mahony who organised new bollards outside the school gates in conjunction with the City Council.

We enjoyed a beautiful Assembly on Friday 11th November led by the Rowan Room to help us to take a trip down memory lane and be grateful for those in our past and present lives from Remembrance Sunday. Christmas Carol practice is underway as we prepare for our Carol Service and School fayre taking place on Sunday 4th December at 11:30am in St Michael's Church. We hope to see many members of the school community and parishioners after the service for a cup of tea or coffee.

St Luke's School Notes

October saw the departure of two very important and much-loved members of our school community. The pupils of St Luke's said goodbye and best wishes to Archdeacon Wilkinson as he relocates to Kilkenny to take up his new position as Bishop of Cashel, Ossory and Ferns. Just a few short weeks later, it was time to say 'Slán leat' to our Deputy Principal of 19 years, Mrs Susan Colton, who retired after 41 years of teaching!



Despite a wet and windy November, the pupils of St Luke's have been as busy as ever with a wide variety of activities. As part of Science Week 2022, Our 4th, 5th and 6th classes were delighted to welcome scientists from Johnson & Johnson to school. The pupils made lava lamps and took part in a great workshop from the company. 4th class have also been enjoying some excellent cycling lessons on bike and road safety from Cycle Right, an initiative supported by the Road Safety Authority and Cycling Ireland. We are also, of course, preparing for the wonderful Christmas Season that is quickly approaching! 6th Class are busy preparing a fantastic selection of games and activities for our school Christmas Fair, which is always a wonderful treat for everyone. We are eagerly awaiting our first in-person Carol Services since 2019 and the pupils are putting their vocal cords to good use as they learn a selection of Christmas carols. We are looking forward to our Services, performances, decorations and, of course, obligatory Christmas jumpers in the coming weeks!

Sunday School Douglas will take place on Sunday, 11th December. Children of school going age welcome, younger children welcome too but must be accompanied by an adult. Collection from the Canon Packham Hall after church. Always looking for new volunteers. Consent forms to be filled in by an adult, found at back of the church or ask any of the Sunday school helpers.

Parish Book Club

The Douglas Union of Parishes' Book Club will be meeting again in the morning of Tuesday 13th December from 11am to 12.30pm in the Parish Hall beside St Mary's Church, Marmullane (Passage West). New members welcome! If interested, please text Sharon Kerr on 086 8327653 or Saskia O'Neill on 086 3439124 for further details



Our **monthly parish prayer meetings** will take place on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7.30pm 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? *Kieran Hogan*



Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 7th December at 7:15pm in the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs, Cork City.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378

G. F. Handel Messiah will take place in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December @ 7pm. Tickets are €25 and are available from the Cathedral Shop.



CDYC Youth Events: On the 10th of December, we are planning on heading to Dundrum Shopping Centre for a bit of a Christmas shopping spree, followed by a youth service and sleep over in Rev. David Bowles new parish in Whitechurch in Dublin.

I will be sending out reminders and booking forms closer to the time, but in the meantime I can provisionally put anyone who is interested on the list. If you have any questions or enquiries on any of these events, please contact me Hilda Connolly on dyo@corkchurchofireland.com or (086) 8790623

St. Michael's NS Carol Service will take place on Sunday 4th, December at 11.30am followed by their Christmas Fayre at 12.30pm.

St. Luke's NS PTA will hold it's annual Christmas Fayre on Sunday, 4th December following St. Luke's Church service at 11.15am.



On Friday 9th December there will be a **Christmas Concert** with St. Nicolas Brass Band in St. Michael's Church, Blackrock at 8 pm conducted by Noel Gavin with special guests Harmonica Barbershop Quartet and the Ursuline School Choir. Tickets are €10 each and can be purchased from any band member.

Carol Services

St. Mary's Church, Marmullane will hold it's Ecumenical Carol Service on Sunday 11th December at 7pm.

On Sunday 18th December **Holy Trinity Church, Frankfield** will hold it's Carol Service at 10am followed by **St. Luke's Church, Douglas** Carol Service at 11.15am. **St. Michael's Church, Blackrock** will have Carols by Candlelight at 7pm.



The Royal British Legion Earl Haig Poppy Appeal

Having organised the Poppy Collection in Douglas, Blackrock and Frankfield for many years, I would like to thank the parishioners for their generosity. It is much appreciated. The collections this year were Douglas €216.52, Frankfield €215.90 and Blackrock €60. Many thanks to David Wolfe and Keith Dawson for their help. *Cecil Lock*

Congratulations to Rev'd Jean on the conferring of her Master's Degree in Theology on 29th November. A significant day, and we wish you joy in your achievement. *Hazel*



Church Services for Christmas



Saturday 24 December	4.00pm	Crib Service	Douglas
Christmas Eve	10.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sunday 25 December	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Christmas Day	9.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock



Church Services – December 2022



Sunday 4th December	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Violet	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	St. Michael's NS Carol Service	Blackrock
Sunday 11th December	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
Violet	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
	7.00pm	Ecumenical Carol Service	Passage
Sunday 18th December	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Violet	10.00	Carol Service	Frankfield
	11.15	Carol Service	Douglas
	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Blackrock
Saturday 24th December	4.00pm	Crib Service	Douglas
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
White			
Sunday 25th December	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
White	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

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