



# Parish Matters

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Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

February, 2023

## The Curate writes.....

December and now January has quickly passed by. Christmas saw a flurry of Carol Services. The gorgeous decorations of ivy and lanterns in St. Michael's Church, Blackrock were only surpassed by the outstanding performances of the St. Michael's Brass Band, the Hairmonics, Quartet and the Blackrock Parish Folk Group. My thanks also to the Passage West Folk Group, our own church choristers, and organists for providing music to enhance the services. I was delighted at the large attendance of parents and children for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. I had never attended one before and to lead the service was an enjoyable experience.

Then Epiphany too passed with boys from third class assisting in the service by dressing up as the three kings and presenting the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Baptism of Christ quickly followed. Parents and children who were baptised in 2022 returned to St. Luke's Douglas to celebrate our Lord's Baptism by receiving a leaf commemorating their baptism. Baptismal candles were again lit to remind us that through baptism we pass from darkness to light.

It is with both joy and sadness we saw another of our clergy team leave. Reverend Hazel Minion who has given her services to the parish for many years has retired. She will be sorely missed by the parishioners and especially by myself. Her guidance over the past few months has been much appreciated. A joint service to show the parishes' appreciation took place on Sunday, 29th January. We wish her well in her continued journey with Christ.

Yours in Christ,

*Jean*

## St. Michael's School Notes

We are delighted to have started Term 2 in St Michael's after a busy run up to Christmas. It was wonderful to take part in a Christmas Carol Service in St Michael's Church on the 4th of December. Our Parents' Association organised an incredibly successful Christmas Fair, which took place straight after our Carol Service. The focus of the Fair was to celebrate our school community being able to gather together again. A huge amount of work was put in by our Parents' Association to make it happen, for which we are very grateful.



St Michael's were presented with two awards in December on separate occasions in Cork City Hall, a Certificate of Recognition from the PSYCHED Initiative that is Supported by Cork Healthy Cities, and an award for Workplace Learning Initiative from the Cork Lifelong Learning Programme. We also had two pupils, Eli Cassidy and Fiachra Morrish-Wheeler present their fantastic project about "Pupil Voice in Our School" at the Cork Child Friendly City Forum. We held a Christmas Jumper Day and raised almost €180 for Cork Simon Community just before our holidays.

We are looking forward to a busy Term 2. We were delighted to be invited to the Transition Year Show of Moana in Ashton in January, and our middle classes will attend Cork Pops in February

## St Luke's School Notes



Happy new year from All in St. Luke's School. We have settled back after a very busy term in the lead up to Christmas! In December, we were delighted to see the return of our Traditional Annual Carol Services. The Senior Carol service took place on Wed. December 14th, with the Junior Carol service on Friday 16th. Both were in front of a packed church and were a fantastic celebration of the Christmas Season, presenting a selection of Carols, readings, prayers and poems. The school choir also performed at the Parish Carol Service on Sunday, Dec. 18th and we thank them for willingly putting on their uniforms and singing on a weekend!

A 'Christmas Jumper Day' was held in school on the last day of term. This, combined with our carol services, raised over €2600, a fantastic amount of money to split between the new school sensory room and Cork Simon Community.

The staff and pupils of St Luke's were sad to say farewell to our wonderful SNA, Delia Hodnett just before Christmas. Delia has worked in St. Luke's since 2014 and has been a valuable part of our school community. We were delighted to gather together for a special assembly to wish Delia well. Cards, flowers and a gift were presented to Delia and we wish her all the very best as she relocates to West Cork.

All our after-school activities have now resumed and we are hoping for some good weather so that we can enjoy an active Spring term!

**Sunday School Douglas** will commence on a monthly basis this year. The dates are as follows; February 26<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. 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, 14<sup>th</sup> February 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



### **Parish Prayer Chain**

The Parish Prayer Chain exists to pray for anyone in the parish who is in times of difficulty, sickness, or other challenge. You can send in a request for prayer if you are seriously ill or in some other difficulty by putting a note in one of the prayer boxes at the back of each church, or by a message to Rev. Jean.

The conditions are that this is done in confidence and only with the knowledge and consent of the person being prayed for. Only first names or pseudonyms are used. Prayers will continue every day for a month; please update us if there is a continuing problem.

Due to the retirement of Rev. Hazel, the list of people being prayed for is being refreshed, with only those who have communicated with us in 2023 remaining on the list, until new requests come in.

Grateful thanks are due to all the members of the Prayer Chain, seven at present, and those others who sadly are no longer with us. Rev Hazel is the first person in fifteen and a half years to retire from the Prayer Chain! She sends her good wishes and God's blessing to all the members and those for whom we pray.

1<sup>st</sup> February 2023



Dear Parishioners of Douglas Union with Frankfield,

Wow! You all made last Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, into a red-letter day for me!

My final celebration of Holy Communion was in St Michael's at 8.30, followed by the United Service with the choir's beautiful rendering of John Rutter's anthem, 'Deep peace of Christ to you' in St Luke's. Everyone was so kind, with well wishes and thankyous.

The bouquet of flowers you gave me is beautiful and my most grateful thanks for your most generous cheque. Even making the plans to spend it will be fun – possibly some travel? Some new clothes? Something for my house or garden? No decisions are made yet...

My life has been hugely enriched by my time in the Non Stipendiary Ministry in this parish, by the worship and music, the pastoral ministry and prayer, bible study and confirmation groups, by you the people of this parish and by working alongside (now Bishop) Adrian and several curates. I made new friends, developed existing friendships and enjoyed the very varied ministry that is needed here. It has been a privilege to be welcomed into so many of your homes, some for celebrations of Holy Communion with those who could not come to church.

As I am now retired from the non stipendiary ministry, I also want to pay tribute to the other places where I worked: Bandon as a student; then Templebreedy and Carrigaline; Ashton School and St Finbarr's Hospital where I was chaplain.

May God continue to guide and bless you as, under the guidance of Rev. Jean and others, you worship and serve him in this place.

Hazel

# Church Services – February, 2023

<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sun before Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sun before Lent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>The Sunday before Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
White	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Violet	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

## **Parish Contacts:**

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