



Advent & Christmas Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with
Frankfield

December 2023

The Rector writes...

I am looking forward to my first Christmas in Douglas and a full programme of Advent and Christmas events. Christmas remains a time of year when there are many opportunities to see people we might not usually see – friends and family - and that can be a huge joy. And while there is much to enjoy about the Christmas season, I know it can be a difficult season for others. However, it is also true that from a place of hurt or disappointment we are, perhaps, more obviously the intended recipients of the Christmas message. After all, the angelic announcement was not made to happy or comfortable people – but to those who were at the bottom of the social pile – lowly shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. Christmas was the first signs that it really is the poor in spirit, those who mourn, and the meek, who are blessed (Matthew 5: 1-12). These are the deep and wonderful mysteries of the incarnation – the unfolding of God’s wisdom and power. So let us also be gentle and generous with each other in the days and weeks ahead.

Alpha

Our neighbouring parish of St Columba’s Douglas have been hosting an Alpha Course – a small number from our family of parishes have been attending. It has been very good to meet new people, revisit some of the big topics of our shared Christian faith and share something of our own spiritual journeys together. Alpha will finish later this month but before then we look forward to our away day on Saturday 2nd December to learn about the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

William

St. Luke's School Notes:



It is time to Deck the Halls of St Luke's and get ready for all seasonal activities! Rehearsals are in full swing for our Junior and Senior Carol Services, while 6th Class have been busy preparing games and entertainment for the School Christmas fair. The event was run over two days and all classes thoroughly enjoyed the brand new seasonal games presented by 6th class this year!



We were delighted to welcome the West Midlands Theatre Company to School on Thursday Nov. 30th. The whole school got to sit back and enjoy an amazing production of Sinbad the Sailor- it was a highly entertaining morning! 2nd Class enjoyed a lovely walk to the park recently, while 4th Class have been on their bikes for the past few weeks, learning about road and bike safety from Cycle Right. 6th Class were recently invited to the Johnson and Johnson factory in Ringaskiddy. They had a terrific day, with an opportunity to see some 3D printers, walk through the production line and hold some hip, knee and shoulder joints. They also enjoyed taking part in some fascinating STEM activities like Virtual Reality Games and Giant Jenga. Following a lovely lunch in the canteen they returned to school armed with goodie bags! Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir, from all at St Luke's!

St. Michael's School Notes:

We have been very busy since returning to St Michael's after our Mid Term Break. Junior Infants to 4th Class attended Cork Pops in Cork City Hall, and our teachers were very impressed by how well our pupils represented our school.

Our Oak Room and Willow Room continued their hurling coaching at the Rockies with Paul O'Callaghan. This Willow Room worked very hard preparing for the Art competition 'Someone like Me'. They had lots of discussions about how we are the same, but different. They talked about how some of our school community have disabilities, some which can be seen and some that are invisible. They decided to title their collaborative art work 'We lift each other up!!'. They also had a very busy time preparing for their class assembly. The theme was diversity and inclusion and the importance of helping each other to achieve dreams. They performed a short play, entitled 'The Rainbow' which demonstrated how we all have individual strengths that we use to make our community a happy place. They finished by singing Count on Me'.



We had an exceptional review for our SNA allocation in August. We were informed before Mid Term that our allocation has been increased, and as a result we are delighted to welcome Janis Casey to our staff. Janis officially started in this role in November. Our Chestnut Room 3rd and 4th and our Rowan Room 5th and 6th Classes, began a six week programme of Hockey coaching, provided by Hockey

Ireland. They are enjoying this session very much. The Rowan Room spent a fabulous morning at Nagle Community College in their new science labs. They were made to feel very welcome by staff and pupils alike and enjoyed experimenting with dry ice and electricity.

We have been very happy to welcome Sarah Wood to the Oak Room. Sarah is a teaching student in CIC, DCU and she is completing her placement with us. We also welcomed Ms. Manon Paris from Université de Rouen. Manon is a final year teaching student and is joining us until the Christmas holidays as part of her Erasmus experience.

We are really looking forward to our School's Christmas Fair being run by our wonderful PA. This is taking place on Sunday 3rd December at 12:30-2:30pm. Come and enjoy Santa's Grottos, a Christmas Raffles, bake sale, face painting, drinks and snacks and much more! We would be delighted to see as many parishioners as possible. Adults €3, Children €2 and Families are €10. Our Christmas Service will be held on Friday, 22nd December at 10:30 am in St Michael's Church. All parishioners are welcome.

Douglas Union with Frankfield Christmas Trees for Sale takes place on Saturday, 9th December at 10am – 12.30pm in the Canon Packham Hall. For further information contact Uwe Schiller at 087/2318099



Walking Club will meet on Thursday 7th December at Tramore Valley Park (Church of the Incarnation Frankfield car park) weather permitting at 10.30am – 12 noon. All are welcome

Monthly Parish Prayer Group will meet on Zoom on Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm. Please email douglasprayergroup@icloud.com if you would like the link.
Kieran Hogan



Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 6th December at 7:15pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Douglas, 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

The **Parish Book Club** will take place on Tuesday the 12th, 11am-12.30 in Passage.



Sunday School continues to be held once a month in St. Luke's, Douglas. The next Sunday School will take place on December 10th. 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. Consent forms to be filled in by an adult, found at back of the church or ask any of the Sunday school helpers.



Candlelight Service St. Michael's Blackrock. Come see the church decorated in all its Christmas splendour on Sunday 17th December at 7pm. Join in the carols played by St. Nicholas Brass Band. A truly magnificent event in our church calendar.

Canon Packham Hall

To help reduce the energy costs of our hall, would anyone using the hall please make sure that everything is switched off before leaving the premises. Unfortunately our running costs have soared. This is due in part to rising energy costs but also we have found lights, heating, etc. left on when the hall is not in use. Also, if you see anything in the hall that requires our attention, would you please contact a member of the hall committee – Uwe Schiller, John French, Vicky Coomber. Thank you for your help and co-operation.

Carol Services

St. Mary's Church, Marmullane will hold it's Ecumenical Carol Service on Sunday 3rd December at 7pm.

On Sunday 17th 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. In the evening St. Michael's Church, Blackrock will have Carols by Candlelight at 7pm.



St. Luke's NS PTA will hold it's annual Christmas Fayre on Sunday, 3rd December following St. Luke's Church service at 11.15am.

St. Michael's School Fair will also take place on Sunday, 3rd December at 12.30pm – 2.30pm.



Church Services for Christmas



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

The White Poppy

I wear a white poppy to remember the dead,
The civilians whose names oft unknown and unsaid,
The innocent people who 'fought the good fight,'
Who by doing so saved others but sealed their own plight.

The doctors and nurses and people who cared,
For the injured and broken, they often despaired,
The reporters who sent us the pictures so we
Know what was happening and would show sympathy.

Ambulance drivers, firemen and all
Who comforted the grieving, the great and the small.
Ordinary people caught up in the pain
Their sacrifice great so others could gain

No medals in this world had they to boast
Their reward in the next as they loved the most.

(We will remember them)

By Ida Lee

I also wear a red poppy.



From

Rev William & Rev Jean

Church Services December, 2023



Sun 3rd Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	No Service	Passage
Violet	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock
	7.00pm	Ecumenical Carol Service	Passage
Wed. 6th Dec	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.45	Holy Communion	Maryborough NH
Sun. 10th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
Violet	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Sun. 17th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Violet	10.00	Carol Service	Frankfield
	11.15	Carol Service	Douglas
	11.30	no service	Blackrock
	7.00pm	Candlelight Service	Blackrock
Sun. 24th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Violet/White	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.30	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	4.00pm	Crib Service	Douglas
	10.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 25th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
White	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.30	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

Sun. 31st Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sun of Christmas</i>	11.00	Joint Family Service	Blackrock

Church Services January, 2024

Wed. 3rd Jan	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.45	Holy Communion	Maryborough NH

Sun. 7th Jan	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sun after Epiphany</i>	9.45	Service of the Word	Passage
Baptism of our Lord	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
(all 2023 baptisms)	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock

Sun. 14th Jan	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sun after Epiphany</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

Sun. 21st Jan	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sun after Epiphany</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

Sun. 21th Jan	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th Sun after Epiphany</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

Parish Contacts:

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