



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

March, 2024

The Rector writes...

Dear friends

March is going to be a busy month – preparing for Holy Week and Easter. We will also be saying 'good bye' to Jean. In this letter, however, I want to say a few words about how our parish is governed (managed) because immediately after Easter we will be holding our annual East General Vestries (Frankfield on Monday 8th April and the Douglas Union of Parishes on the 9th April). Future letters won't be this long!

What is an Easter General Vestry?

Many of you will know all about Easter General Vestries – but, increasingly, I am aware that many know very little. The Easter General Vestry (equivalent to an annual general meeting) is the occasion when, as a church, we gather to review (and approve) our finances and elect a new Select Vestry (equivalent to a board of trustees) to oversee the financial and administrative life of the churches. In recent years, there has been a big change in the way parishes and churches are run. All churches are now governed by charity legislation (the 2009 Charities Act) – the Church of Ireland is no different. Under charity law, we are now required to provide an account of ourselves in terms of how we are meeting our charitable purpose and aims. This information is contained in an annual report (in the past this might have been dealt with by the Rector's remarks on the evening). An annual report is a record of the activities we have pursued to fulfil our charitable aims.

In the past, the clergy were responsible for the spiritual stuff (worship and pastoral care), and the vestry (with the Rector) took responsibility for the non-spiritual stuff like money, buildings and general administration. Charity legislation has, in my view, helped us to see that everything together is the responsibility of us all – even if some tasks are undertaken by people with the relevant skills. In other words, everything is equally 'spiritual' because everything serves the purpose and aims (objects) of the charity. Of course, churches are a type of charity and in the Church of Ireland, an important part of our governance is laid down by the Church of Ireland Constitution. However, where the constitution conflicts with state charity legislation or is not sufficiently clear, the church must follow the legislation.

Many of you will have had experience of serving on charitable boards – perhaps a school board of management. Serving on a select vestry is similar. One big change for vestries is the change of status for those who serve on the vestry. Every vestry member is now also a trustee. Being a trustee focuses the mind in terms of responsibility! Our parish insurance indemnifies members to the extent that we are not negligent, and we follow correct practice – especially in financial management and the main areas of compliance - health and safety, safeguarding, and data protection.

So, what exactly is our charitable purpose and what are our charitable objects or aims? This is the wording that all dioceses and parishes in the Republic of Ireland use:

Charitable Purpose

The Charitable purpose of the Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield (the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross of the Church of Ireland) is the advancement of religion.

Charitable Objects

The principal function of the Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield (United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross of the Church of Ireland) is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of the Parish (Diocese), the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity. As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield (the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross) has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield (United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross).

This is a big brief! If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to raise and sustain a healthy church.

So why am I talking about this?

Most parishes are beginning to feel the pinch in terms of people and resources. We are hugely blessed with people and resources but if we are to continue to flourish as a church, we will need to ensure as much involvement as possible from our whole church family. We have a great team of volunteers in our churches but, increasingly, a smaller number of people are bearing the load. While not everyone can serve on the vestry every year, there are lots of other ways to be involved. There is always so much more we can be doing. And the more people get involved, the lighter the load becomes.

I want to encourage as many of you as possible to attend the Easter General Vestry. It should provide a valuable insight into the workings of the parish – the challenges and the opportunities!

Who can serve on the Select Vestry?

Every person over the age of 18 who is listed on the General Vestry members' list is eligible to stand for election. (If you are not on the General Vestry Members' list or you are not sure, please ask me). You can find out everything you need to know on the Church of Ireland website, click 'Resources' and then click on 'Select Vestry' (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/select-vestry#section-89>). Even if you are not currently on the General Vestry Members' list you are very welcome to attend the meeting.

Frankfield will be holding their Easter Vestry on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm. The Douglas Union of Parishes (Douglas, Blackrock, and Passage West) will hold their meeting on Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm in the Canon Packham Hall. We will endeavour to make it as informative and accessible as we can!

If, in the meantime, you have any questions please don't hesitate to make contact or ask one of the church wardens. And please continue to pray for our churches and for the work to which God has called us.

Every blessing
William

Confirmation morning with the Bishop

We will conclude our parish confirmation preparations sessions in early March and then gather together with all the other confirmands in the diocese at Ashton School when Bishop Paul will be leading us for the morning of Saturday March 9th.

Licensing of Rev Jean Carney

On Thursday 21st March at 8pm in the Church of St Mark, Kilbonane, Bishop Paul will license Jean to the Moviddy Union of Parishes and to be the Assistant Church of Ireland Health Care Chaplain.

Holy Week

I am greatly looking forward to celebrating Holy Week for the first time in the parish. Every service will be special, and we look forward to welcoming the CDYG to Blackrock on Monday 25th March. We will be joined by Bishop Paul who, that day, will also be celebrating the 25th anniversary since his consecration as bishop of Cork. Everyone will be welcome to join us for the service.



The Curate writes ...

Time has certainly flown since the announcement at New Year's that I would be leaving the parish and becoming Bishop's Curate in Moviddy Union and Assistant Chaplain at Cork Hospitals. It doesn't seem possible that just over a year and a half ago I was standing in the garden at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute holding an envelope in my hand that said I had been selected for Douglas Union with Frankfield. My first reaction was, 'Where's that?' Then it dawned on me – I got Cork!! I was thrilled, that Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson had selected me as his curate. However, my time with him was short-lived as he became Bishop of Cashel, Ferns, and Ossory, a few months later, leaving me in charge of the parish. I found that even thirty-five years as a rector's wife, a number of years as a Lay Reader, and an MTh hadn't really prepared me for the horrors of Parish Safeguarding Trust! Thankfully, I had the assistance of Rev. Hazel Minion until she too left the parish. But most of all, I had a terrific bunch of people who welcomed me and assisted me in learning the ins and outs of being in charge of a parish. So thank you so much for your patience and understanding. Abbie, my little, black, poodle and I are sorry to leave our family behind, as that is what the Douglas parishioners have become to us. We look forward to meeting a new family but hope our ties with Douglas Union with Frankfield will continue. One of the activities I thoroughly enjoyed during my time in the parish was the Walking Club. Each Thursday we would choose various places to enjoy a companionable walk which Abbie always joined in. On Thursday, February 22nd I was taken out to lunch in South County Restaurant where I was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers and a poem written by Ida Lee which went:

Au Revoir Jean

We'll remember 'Jeanie' with the light brown hair,
Walking up the aisle with her books both hymn & prayer.
We'll miss her friendly smile and miss her poodle, Abbie,
She is going to pastures new,
A new 'flock' to make happy.
We hope we'll meet again,
And that our paths will cross,
Not in the 'Bons' or C. U. H,!!
After you've had time to doss!! (sleep)
So we wish you all the best,
The Bishop's curate you will be,
Assisted by you 'friend' Abbie,
God bless your move to Moviddy.



Thank you Ida, the members of the Walking Club, the members of the Book Club, the confirmation classes, the Church and Glebe Wardens, and YOU, the wonderful people in this parish for making my time here so great.

This Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, is my last Sunday in the parish, so, I've written this out as some of you may not be there and also just in case I get too emotional to speak.

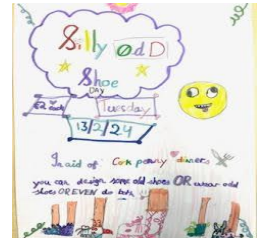
May God bless and keep you all.

Jean



St. Luke's School Notes:

The pupils of St Luke's literally put their 'best foot forward' with an excellent fundraiser organised by our wonderful student council recently. Silly Odd Shoe Day took place on Feb. 13th, where pupils either wore odd shoes or decorated a pair of shoes in aid of Cork Penny Dinners.



Our class assemblies have continued, with a lesson on Proverbs and wise sayings presented by Rang a trí in early February. More recently, Rang a dó reminded us of the importance of Lent and resisting temptation. This assembly was also our opportunity to say 'Slán agus go raibh maith agat' to rev. Jean Carney, who has delighted us with her wonderful story-telling and puppets in assemblies over the past year. Some pupils from Junior Infants to 2nd class



presented Jean with a huge card made by the whole school, as well as a puppet of herself! We all enjoyed some sweet treats on February 23rd, thanks to a cake sale organised by our Parents' Association;



pupils are now eagerly awaiting the next PA event, the annual Patrick's day disco! Fourth class recently travelled to The Lifetime Lab, where they learned about forces and friction. This was an excellent workshop., allowing pupils to undertake a variety of practical activities, making cars and parachutes! Rehearsals are in full swing for our upcoming school show and we look forward to a busy and creative time over the coming weeks!

St. Michael's School Notes

We have had a very busy February at St Michael's! We started the month with a beautiful assembly called Different Together led by our Rowan Room. We were delighted to welcome past pupil Beth Southgate from Midleton College for her work experience. Our Infants visited Piccolo Play Village in Ballincollig. We marked Internet Safety Day with lessons for each class and this week the whole school is



taking part in Friendship Week. We have been invited to take part in the Cork City St Patrick's Day Parade and our pupils have been very busy preparing props for the parade's theme; "Pure Imagination" The whole school led a Goodbye Assembly for Rev Jean on the 1st of March, and we were delighted that parents could join us. We thank Rev Jean for all of her support during her time with us and we wish her the very best for her move to Moviddy!

Walking Club will meet on Thursday at the Lee Fields(carpark opposite County Hall) weather permitting at 10.30am – 12 noon. All are welcome



Monthly Parish Prayer Group will meet on Zoom on Thursday 7th March 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 March 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 March at 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 March 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.

An **Irish Language Service for St Patrickstide** will take place in the Church of St. James, Mallow P51HX53, at 7.30pm on Friday 15 th March 2024. The Service is designed to be inclusive; bilingual texts of the service, prayers and readings will be provided.





Church Services March, 2024

Sun. 3rd March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sun in Lent</i>	11.00	United Service	Douglas
Violet		followed by refreshments in CPH	
 Wed. 6th March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.45	Holy Communion	Maryborough NH
 Sun. 10th March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th Sun in Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Violet	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
 Wed. 13th March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Violet			
 Sun. 17th March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
White	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
 Wed. 20th March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
 Sun. 24th March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Psalms Sunday</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Red	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
(Passion Liturgy)	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
Violet	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
 Mon. 25th March	2.30pm	Holy Communion	Blackrock
		With Bishop Paul and the CDYC	

Tuesday 26th March

No Service

Wed. 27th March

11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
7.30pm	Late Evening Office	Passage

Thurs. 28th March

7.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
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Maundy Thursday

Fri. 29th March

2.00pm	All age service	Frankfield
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Good Friday

Hot cross buns served after the service.

Sun. 31st March

8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
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Easter Sunday

9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
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10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
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11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
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11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
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