



Advent & Christmas Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with
Frankfield

December 2025

Dear friends

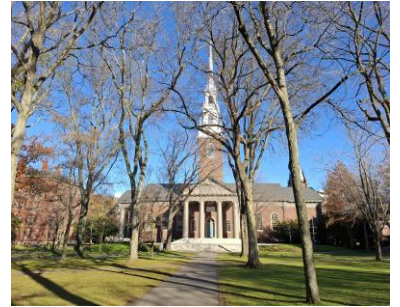
I am just back from a conference in Boston and one morning three of us took a subway ride out to Harvard University – on the other side of the Charles River. It was a beautiful late autumn day to appreciate the fine libraries, faculty buildings,



chapels, and housing. One thinks of the many Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, scientists, business leaders, and politicians who have

passed through this famous university. On one building these words were carved prominently into the stone frieze: 'What is man that you are mindful of him'. Addressed to

God, the psalmist's words stand as a quiet reminder that even in places devoted to human achievement, the deep questions remain the same. The psalmist's question cuts through our pride and our anxieties alike: Why should God care about us at all?



In a world that often judges human worth by achievement — degrees, titles, or success — Christmas quietly subverts it all. Our dignity does not in the end come from what we accomplish, but from the God who draws near to us, who comes among us as Emmanuel, "God with us." May this season of Advent be a time of rediscovering our true worth in the eyes of the One 'who loves us and gave himself for us' so that, with the psalmist, we can declare, 'O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!' (Psalm 8: 9)

Alpha

The current Douglas inter-church Alpha Course concludes on Tuesday 2nd December.

Confirmation Classes

The confirmation classes for the February 2026 confirmation in St Fin Barre's Cathedral concluded on Monday 17th November – Dominoes pizza helped us mark the moment!

Marriage Course

Start the New Year with purpose! Join couples from all over the country and experience the Marriage Course online run by the Church of Ireland Marriage Council. William and Tanya will be helping to facilitate and we would love to see you there!

Who is it for?

The Marriage Course is for couples who are seeking to strengthen their relationship. Some couples do the course to intentionally invest in their relationship; others are looking to address more specific challenges. Either way, the course offers essential tools and practical ideas to help you build a relationship that lasts a lifetime.

It's very informal, with all the talking done between the couple in private - you do not have to share anything with anyone else! There is video input, before discussion time between the couple which is directed by a Guest Manual.

Running Tuesday nights from 6th January for 7 weeks. Register here to book your place (<https://alphaireland.org/events/the-marriage-course>) or email tanya@alphaireland.org

The Certificate course for Christian Studies (2026/27) will begin in January. If anyone is interested, please see William for further details.

Heritage Council Grant

Thanks to a generous heritage council grant, we have been able to complete the digitization of the burial records for St Luke's graveyard. Also a digital booklet of the parish called A Church of Ireland Parish in County Cork by Sam McCutcheon has been uploaded to the Parish Website. Please click on News [A Church Of Ireland Parish Co Cork 1983](#) and open the hyperlink to view the booklet.

Reading and leading prayers

If you would be willing to join the reading and prayer rota, please let Rev William or Rev Anne know.

Pastoral visiting and Home Communion

William and Anne are available to visit members of the parish who now find it difficult to attend church services. Please contact William on 0871660356 or email: wolhausen@gmail.com and Anne on 0860239699 or email: annemskuse@gmail.com.

William

Funerals

18th November in St Luke's Douglas – Robert Teap.



Douglas Union with Frankfield Christmas Trees for Sale takes place on Saturday, 6th December at 10am – 12.30pm in the Canon Packham Hall. All profits to Douglas Union with Frankfield Parish Funds. For further information contact Uwe Schiller at 087/2318099

St. Michael's School Notes:



November has been very busy at St Michael's. Our 5th and 6th class children attended the STEM Showcase Expo 2025 in the City Hall. Primary and Post Primary schools were brought together to celebrate the power and possibilities of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths). It showcased industry innovations, interactive exhibits, and hands-on experiences that highlight how STEM is shaping our future — in Ireland and beyond. We received great news this month. Following a recent application, our school will receive a grant from "ESD to 2030" (Education for Sustainable Development). Our ESD project involves making an outdoor creative play area for the pupils. We are very grateful to Ms Sweeney for leading the application. We were also delighted to learn that St Michael's has won a mini-woodland planting set from Coill na nÓg. We looked forward to receiving the prize in December/January. This year the families of St Michael's School took part in The Shoebox Appeal. This was a great success and the school collected nearly 80 boxes. They were a great talking point over the past two weeks, with pupils discussing the destination and content of the boxes. Thank you Ms. Harper for arranging it and to every family who took part. On Sunday 30th November the children in 1st to 4th class kicked off Advent by taking part in the Christmas Cheer Concert organised by Cork Choral Festival.

Monthly Parish Prayer Group The next prayer group meeting will take place in the home of Kieran & Rosie Hogan, Blackrock on Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:30 pm. New members welcome. If you would like to join, please email douglasprayergroup@icloud.com Kieran Hogan



is absolutely delighted to extend to you a very warm invitation to join together with the wider Cork and Munster community in aid of Anam Cara a very special **Candlelight Christmas Concert** in St. John's Church of Ireland, Monkstown T12K037 on Thursday, 4th December at 7.30pm. Featuring a

festive line-up including Passage West Children's Choir, Fonn Órga, Sinéad Tracey, David Payne, Louise O'Sullivan, Ciara Breen, Charlotte O'Connor, Denis Lane, Ellen Bolger, and more, this evening of familiar tunes and new classics promises to be a joyful time for all ages. Tickets are €20 and there will be a limited number available at the door, but it is recommended you book ahead here



The Parish Bookclub will meet again on Tuesday 9th December at 11 am in the hall beside St. Mary's Church, Marmullane, Passage West. Last month we read "The Stone Diaries" by Canadian author Carol Shields who won the Pulitzer Prize for this book in 1995. We all enjoyed reading this fictional autobiography of the character Daisy Flett which chronicled all the different stages of her life and her family. Our book choice for December is "56 Days" - a thriller/murder by Cork author Catherine Ryan Howard and we look forward to chatting about this on the 9th December while also having some Christmas cheer. If you would like to join the Bookclub please contact Sharon Kerr on 086/8327653.



Carol Services

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

On Sunday morning 21st December Holy Trinity, Frankfield will hold it's Carol Service at 10am followed by St. Luke's, Douglas at 11.15am. On Sunday 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, 7th December following St. Luke's Church service at 11.15am.

St. Michael's School Fair will also take place on Sunday, 7th December at 12.30pm – 2.30pm.

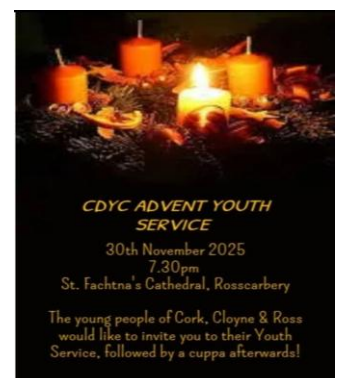


On the 13th December, we are leaving Clonakilty, by bus (with pick ups along the way) at 10am.

First stop is Mahon Point for some Christmas shopping and lunch. Next stop is at Winterlee in Cork for the Christmas stalls and finishing up with Ice Skating at 2.40pm. We should be back in Clonakilty for 5pm.

Cost: €25pp Secondary School Age.

Spaces will fill up fast, so please contact me ASAP to reserve



your place!

Also, don't forget our Christmas Advent Service at St Fachtna's Cathedral in Rosscarbery on next Sunday the 30th Nov at 7.30pm.

And as always there is a cuppa and a tray bake on offer afterwards!

If you have any eager teens who would like to be involved and do a reading or prayers, please drop me an email. Hylda Connolly dyc@corkchurchofireland.com



Church Services for Christmas

Wed. 24 December	4.30pm	Crib Service	Douglas
Christmas Eve	10.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
Thurs. 25 December	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Christmas Day	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock



From

Rev William

Parish Contacts:

Parish Contacts:

Rev. Dr. William Olhausen Tel: 087/1660356 E-mail: wolhausen@googlemail.com

Rev. Anne Skuse [Tel:086/0239699](tel:0860239699) E-mail: annemskuse@gmail.com

Parish Office Tel: 4369578. E-mail: douglasofficecork@gmail.com (Friday mornings only)

Parish Website: www.douglas.cork.anglican.org

Church Services December, 2025



Wed. 3rd Dec	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 7th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
Violet	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock
	7.00pm	Carol Service	Passage
Wed. 10th Dec	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 14th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
Violet	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Wed. 17th Dec	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 21st Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th Sun of Advent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Violet	10.00	Carol Service	Frankfield
	11.15	Carol Service	Douglas
	7.00pm	Carol Service	Blackrock
Wed. 24th Dec	4.30pm	Crib Service	Douglas
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
White			
Thurs. 25th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
White	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Sun. 28th Dec	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	11.00	United Service	Frankfield