



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

November, 2025

The Rector writes...

October has been another busy month. Confirmation classes and Alpha are in full swing, and mid-term has come and gone. October was also the month when the Lord called home Ben McDowell and John Wolfe, both of whom were greatly loved members of the church family in Frankfield. Rhona and her family, Alan and his family, all remain in our prayers as we now find ourselves once again in this season of remembrance that began with All Saints Day on Friday 1st November and continues until Christ the King on Sunday 23rd November. This is a time when together we especially remember and celebrate the saints who have gone before us and, more personally, to remember before God our own loved ones who are now with the Lord and with whom we long to be reunited in the new heavens and earth.

There was another very successful coffee morning in Passage on Saturday 11th. We enjoyed greatly Bishop Michael and Claire Burrows visit on Sunday 12th October. Huge thanks to the hospitality team once again for enabling such an enjoyable time of chat and fellowship after the service. And we are looking forward to the culmination of St Luke's 150th anniversary celebrations with the visit of Bishop Paul and Susan Colton at the united service in St Luke's at 11am on Sunday 30th November. This will be the last time Bishop Paul is with us as the sitting bishop. I hope that as many of us as possible can be there to celebrate the history of St Luke's church and, also, celebrate and give thanks for 27 years of Bishop Paul's episcopal ministry among us. It promises to be a very special occasion.

Confirmation 2026

Confirmation classes will conclude on Monday 17th November in preparation for the big day in St Fin Barre's Cathedral on Sunday 1st February 2026 at 3.30pm. Bishop Paul will be meeting the candidates at the United Service on Sunday 30th November.

Dr Tim Jackson book launch

We had a most enjoyable evening launching Tim's book on Wednesday 23rd October – with readings of some of Tim's poetry. Each poem was introduced by Tim himself with poignancy and great humour. He is a wonderful raconteur! Tim's book is for sale at 15 euro/copy. All profits are being shared among the parish and two other local charities. Please let me or one of the churchwardens know if you would like to purchase a copy.

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

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.

Every blessing

William

Baptisms

2nd November in St Luke's Church, Ollie Terence O'Donoghue (parents – Rebecca Sweetnam and Terence O'Donoghue).

Funerals

13th October in Frankfield – Ben McDowell

16th October in Frankfield and the Island Crematorium - John Wolfe

St Luke's School Notes

The run-up to the Halloween break was, as always, a busy and activity-filled time for St Luke's. 3rd and 4th class walked to Douglas Library, where they were treated to a wonderful talk with Eibhlís Carcione. The Irish author has written many books like *The Midnight Night*, *Black Gables* and *Welcome to Dead Town* Raven McKay - all with a spooky, mysterious theme which was perfect for the season!





Earlier in October, over 50 pupils travelled to Fota to represent the school in the Primary School Cross Country competition. We had representatives from 2nd to 6th class, undertaking distances from 400M to 800M. Everyone ran

really well, and never gave up all the way to the finish line. It was a terrific day out and well attended by schools from all over Cork. We were delighted to meet Sonia O Sullivan, who kindly signed our race numbers!



We had several other activities to bring the half-term to a close. On Tuesday Oct. 21st, 6th class presented an assembly on Wellbeing and our whole-school initiatives to help everyone feel physically and mentally well in our

school community. Our first school walk of the year also took place just before the mid-term break. It was a beautiful clear day and all classes had great fun playing on the leaf-covered grass!



Finally, it was time to ditch the uniforms and get dressed up in aid of the Hope Foundation. We held a costume parade around the yard to show off the chosen attire, before heading off for a well-deserved mid-term break!



St. Michael's School News

October has been a very busy month at St Michael's. Four students and two members of staff represented the school at the Green Schools Primary School Regional Energy Workshops at the Maldron Hotel. They learnt about Ireland's fossil fuels and renewable energy. They learnt about the different types of energy, including elastic potential and gravitational energy. They learnt about the Celtic Interconnector Project, an undersea electric cable which will connect Ireland and France. There were many fascinating, energy experiments at the workshop. The facilitators got the pupils to think about how much energy they use in school and which appliances use the most



energy. It was a great morning and the pupils really enjoyed themselves. Rowan Room led our Friday Assembly on the 10th of October. Space Week was their theme and they took us all through a journey of Space discovery, starting with the stargazing of early communities and ending with Space travel. The school also celebrated Maths Week this month and the children enjoyed getting outside to do Maths Trails, looking for Maths in the environment. We ended the Month with a great Halloween dress up day. The children all took part in a Halloween parade and enjoyed a disco. The Rowan Room had a spooktacular bake sale fund-raiser and raised an amazing total of €477.50 which will go towards the cost of their school tour. Our Christmas Fair will be on Sunday 7th December. All are welcome.

Prayer Group Meeting

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

Pilates Classes in St Mary's Church Hall Marmullane on Wednesdays 7pm-8pm and Saturdays 12 midday- 1pm. Everyone welcome. If interested contact Julie 086 176 3290

The next **Sunday School** takes place on Sunday, 16th November at 11.15am. Collection at the Canon Packham Hall following the service.

The **Parish Bookclub** will meet again on Tuesday 11th November at 11 am in the hall beside St Mary's Church, Marmullane, Passage west.



Last month we read “ Rembrandts Promise “ - a debut novel by Cork author Barbara Leahy. Based on the true story of Rembrandts relationship with his young sons Titus nursemaid Geertje Dicx and her quest for justice when the renowned

painter reneges on his promise to marry her and treats her so unfairly. We all enjoyed this book and a very impressive beautifully written debut novel where we got to visit Amsterdam in the mid 17th Century in the Dutch Golden age but also portraying the immense poverty of that time.

Our next book choice for November is “The Stone Diaries” by Carol Shields who won the Pulitzer Book Prize back in 1993 for this novel and we look forward to chatting about this at our next meeting.

If anyone would like to join the Bookclub please contact Sharon Kerr on 086 8327653.

CMHI is delighted to invite parishioners to join their online Advent events, Windows of Waiting (a 12-part series of reflections, crafts, and prayers sent by email/WhatsApp), and Reading by Candlelight, a Zoom book group.

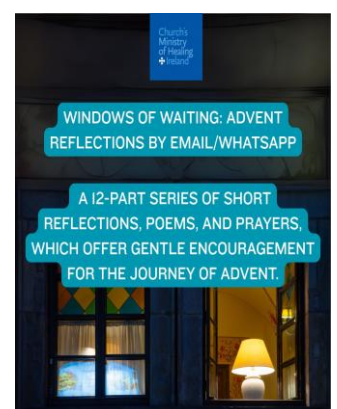
Reading by Candlelight Book Group: as darkness moves towards light, join the



Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland for an online reading group. Gather with us for four evenings as we discuss short stories and poems that open the heart to the season's mystery and hope. Together we'll read works by Tove Jansson (creator of the Moomins!), Maeve Brennan, Maeve Binchy, and many others, exploring the complexity of

Christmas, the sometimes-painful family dynamics, and the moments of beauty that remain etched in memory. Our final session will be at Epiphany, when we will read James Joyce's "The Dead", one of the greatest short stories ever written. Wed 3rd Dec, Wed 10th Dec, Wed 17th Dec 2025, and Wed 7th Jan 2026, 8pm, on Zoom. Book via www.ministryofhealing.ie

Windows of Waiting: through the Church's Ministry of Healing Ireland's new offering, Windows of Waiting, you will receive twelve gentle reflections by email or WhatsApp. This mix of prayers, poems, guided meditations, and creative ideas will help you to rest, reflect, and prepare room for the coming of Christ this Christmas. You will receive two reflections each week, across the six weeks of Advent, written and created by Lydia and Catherine. Windows of Waiting offers twelve moments of stillness by email: a window to open, a word to hold, a light for your waiting heart. Sign up via www.ministryofhealing.ie





Anam Cara will be hosting an Online Bereavement Information Evening on Thursday 20th of November at 7pm for bereaved parents. Niamh Fitzpatrick will be our guest speaker for the evening, bringing together her personal experience of grief and her professional expertise as a psychotherapist. Niamh has degrees in Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and Sport Psychology and is a regular speaker with Zeminar, Shona.ie, Let's Talk Mental Health at Work, Network Ireland, the Psychological Society of Ireland, and The Irish Hospice Foundation.

She will share her learnings and insights as she navigates her own experience of grief, having suffered a traumatic loss in March 2017, when her sister, Capt. Dara Fitzpatrick, was one of the four crew killed when Irish Coast Guard rescue helicopter Rescue 116 crashed while out on a mission. This session may be especially beneficial for parents seeking to understand their children's unique perspectives on grief, and those navigating traumatic or sudden losses.

Frankfield Vestry Meeting will take place in the Sunday School Room, Frankfield on Monday, 10th November at 8pm

Church Services – November, 2025



Sunday 9th November	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Remembrance Day</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
 Sunday 16th November	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sun before Advent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
 Sunday 23rd November	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Kingship of Christ</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage West
White	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
 Sunday 30th November	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sun of Advent</i>	11.00	United Service	Douglas
Purple			

Parish Contacts:

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