



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

February, 2026

The Rector writes...

Dear friends

As January closes with a wonderful time of celebration and hospitality at the Parish Supper, February begins with this year's confirmation service in St Fin Barre's Cathedral on Sunday 1st February. It will, of course, be Bishop Paul's last year of confirmations. Please continue to pray for our 15 candidates – Aoife, Abigail, Molly, Lola, Mira, Helena, Jane, Thomas, Joseph, Aaron, AJ, Matthew, Cillian, Alexander, and Ruairí.

February also begins with a double celebration of St Brigid's Day and the beautiful story of Christ's presentation in the Temple (Candlemas). In the midst of the crowds, a young couple holding their precious bundle of life arrive at the Jerusalem Temple to dedicate their baby son to the Lord. By divine providence, they are met by two older members of the Temple community – Simeon and Anna. It is a picture of all ages coming together around the person of Jesus – the source of true light and the promise of eternal life. As we move towards the season of Lent, we begin to anticipate how God would work out his purposes in the life of that very precious baby presented in the Temple by his faithful Mum and Dad!

Ash Wednesday

There will be a service of Holy Communion to mark Ash Wednesday in St Luke's Church, Douglas, at 11am on Wednesday 18th February.

Lent Course

Our Lent Course will begin on Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday) at 7.30pm in the Canon Packham Hall and St Luke's National School. We will be following the very accessible 5-week Lectio Course. You can find out more by watching the simple video clip here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-course/> All welcome. Please let William know if you would be willing to assist in hosting the course: wolhausen@gmail.com

Baptisms

Sunday 4th January, Sophie Barber (parents Peter and Naomi)), Rowan Gokul (Parents Nathan and Michelle), Anna Hazel Sweetnam (Parents Margo and Grant).

Funerals

Jean Forde, 9th January, Passage West.

Jimmy Herbert, 16th January, St Luke's Douglas.

Every blessing

William

St. Michael's School Notes:

St Michael's Notes Everybody has settled back quickly after the Christmas break and have been working hard throughout a very busy January. All classes have been attending Cricket lessons with coach Anu of Munster Cricket. These lessons are provided through the Cork Sports Partnership. On the 20th of January we celebrated Biscuit's 3rd



Birthday! Biscuit is our AADI dog. To celebrate her birthday we held a sponsored walk to raise funds for AADI (Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland). The AADI are a charity, who trained Biscuit and placed her with our school. Biscuit is a very special dog who has had a hugely positive impact at St Michael's. The whole school took part in the walk and raised much needed funds. In November, St Michael's received a grant for ESD (Education for Sustainable Education) from the Department of Education. This grant has been received and will support our plan for a Sustainable Garden. We will be organising different fundraisers to raise further funds for this garden. The children will have the opportunity to sponsor a Fairy Door for our school garden. Children who take part will design and decorate their own fairy door. Once completed, the doors will be displayed on trees in our school garden, helping to create a colourful, imaginative space for all pupils to enjoy. A St Patrick's Beetle Drive will also be held on Friday 20th March in the Rockies. It will start at 6pm. €40 per team of 4. All are welcome.



The Douglas Union of Parishes' Book Club The Parish Bookclub will meet again on Tuesday the 10th February at 11 am in St Mary's Church Hall, Marmullane, PassageWest. We started off 2026 with a cinema trip to see the film "Hamnet" by the renowned Irish author Maggie O'Farrell which we all thoroughly enjoyed. This wonderful book had been one of our reads and we were very excited to see

how it would adapt from book to film as we all just loved Maggie O'Farrell's historical fiction novel based on Shakespeare's family and tragic loss of his young son Hamnet. The film did not disappoint and we all felt it did indeed stay true for most parts of the book and both Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal gave wonderful and convincing performances as Agnes Hathaway and Shakespeare. We look forward to sharing our views at the next meeting whilst also discussing our next book "Fault Lines" by Japanese author Emily Itami.

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

Monthly Parish Prayer Group will meet on the first Thursday of every month by zoom @ 7.30pm. Please email douglasprayergroup@icloud.com if you would like the link. (Kieran Hogan)

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.



Cork Diocesan Youth Council: On Friday, 27th February at 6pm the rescheduled 5-a-side Soccer Tournament will take place. Get your teams together and your training started!!

Cost €5. Age: Secondary School. Please contact Hilda

Connolly 086 8790623 asap to book your place for this event

Church of Ireland Youth Department in association with Alpha Ireland, are organising Life on Purpose: Online Discipleship Group for Young People. This is a four week course for any old Christian teenagers (TY and up) who are thinking about how to live out their faith. The sessions will touch on service, mission and evangelism. They will be running two groups, Sunday at 5pm and Monday at 8pm and will begin on the 22nd and 23rd February and run for four consecutive weeks. See more information on <https://youtu.be/ctDVUQabygs?is=vdWehvVyhSPPuWI0>. Interested young people can email Luke@CIYD.org to sign up or to ask any questions.

The Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland is very pleased to announce our first event of 2026 - Be Still & Know, returns, and is facilitated by the Very Rev Paul Draper, Dean of Lismore, and Lydia Monds, Ministry Leader with CMHI. Everyone is welcome to attend any of these sessions, which encourage us to turn towards the Prince of Peace and rest in his healing love. This popular online lunchtime series of gentle sessions will take place on 14th and 21st January, 4th and 11th February, from 1.15-1.45pm. Go to www.ministryofhealing.ie to book

A fundraising concert for Ursuline College Blackrock '**Musical Miscellany**' takes place in St. Michael's Church of Ireland, Blackrock on Sunday, 8th February at 6.30pm. This will be an evening of music from contemporary to classical featuring the Haven String Quartet with guitarist Colin McLean. Tickets available at the door or on Eventbrite. €20 General/€10 Student/Child

Church Services February, 2026



Sun. 1st February	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Presentation of Christ</i>	9.45	Service of the Word	Passage
White	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock

Wed. 4th February	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Green			

Sun. 8th February	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th 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

Sun. 15th February	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3^d Sun before Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

18th February	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>			

Sun. 22nd February	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>1st Sun in Lent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

Parish Contacts:

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