



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

March, 2026

The Rector writes...

Dear Friends

Lent can make us feel a bit miserable. But when we step back and ask what Lent is really about, we can see it as a season of love. We all know that love is costly and infinitely precious. There are no quick fixes. There is always more to discover and more to enjoy about those who are closest to us. In the same way, it takes time, effort and a desire to go deeper with our knowledge and love of God, and, in turn, to allow this love to transform us.

So, during Lent, we become more intentional about caring for the love that we have from, and for, God. Practices like fasting, prayer and regular attendance at church are encouraged, to the extent that they help us to deepen the loving relationship with the God we come to know in Jesus. Put simply, the goal of Lent is to become a more loving child of God. Interestingly, I think as we invest in this foundational relationship, all our other relationships deepen too. From this perspective, Lent is quite cool!

However we spend Lent, I hope and pray that we all take time to remember that we are loved by God, a love we are called to enjoy and share!

William

Looking ahead Holy Week

Wednesday

11:00	Blackrock	HC
7.30pm	Passage	Late night office

Maundy

7.30pm	Douglas	HC (with Youghal choir)
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Good Friday

2pm	Frankfield	
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Easter Sunday

Sunday 5th April

8.30	Blackrock	HC
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9:45	Passage	HC
10:00	Frankfield	HC
11:15	Douglas	HC
11: 30	Blackrock	HC

Easter General Vestry

After Easter, we will be holding our Easter Vestries (like a parish AGM). Frankfield will hold their Easter Vestry on Wednesday 15th April. It will begin with a service of holy communion at 7.30pm. Douglas Union of Parishes will hold their Easter Vestry on Thursday 16th April in the parish hall at St Mary’s Marmullane, Passage West. The church family in Passage will also be serving some nice treats to entice us! These evenings are important for our parish life. We will do some necessary business like approving the accounts and electing a new Select Vestry for the year ahead. We will also continue to think about the future shape and rhythm of our parish.

St. Michael’s School Notes:



During February we welcomed two French students, Sterennui and Elise, to our school for a short internship. They really enjoyed helping in all of our classrooms, and were delighted to travel with the Oak Room to the Teddy Bear’s Hospital at UCC for a special trip. Four of our senior student council members also travelled out into the community this month. They went to St Luke’s Home where they presented a cheque of €285 which will contribute

towards activities for the residents. This money was collected at our Christmas Show in December.

The whole school was very excited to see the beautiful set of crested sports jerseys Mr Neil Welch of Hockey World (past pupil and father of Ms Welch) donated to our school. They look incredibly smart and we can’t wait to see our pupils kitted out in them for team events. Their first outing will be after midterm, at a hockey blitz. Our 1st and 2nd classes in Willow Room held a Valentine themed Bake Sale. All classes visited and helped to raise funds that will be used to go towards our school tours in the Summer. Of course, the whole school enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Some children are giving up sweet treats for Lent, whilst others decided to do something extra that will help others. We are looking forward to our Beetle Drive on the 20th March which will be hosted in the Rockies. All are welcome.

St. Luke’s School News:

From assemblies to cake sales to quizzes, February has brought a huge variety of activities in St Lukes. Junior Infants led a beautiful assembly earlier this month and reminded us of the importance of being kind. 5th Class have just started a Creative Arts programme with artist Neo Gilson. The programme is funded by the Department of



Education under the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027. The programme supports and enhances arts education in primary schools developing the creative potential and voice of every child. We are excited to see what is to come over the next few weeks in these workshops!



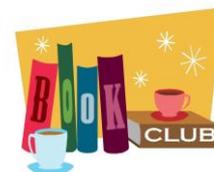
We had huge success in the annual Elevate Credit Union Table quiz competition. Four teams went to Rochestown Park Hotel on Feb. 9th. Our 4th class teams showed excellent general knowledge, with both teams finishing well inside the top ten. Our 6th class teams put their quizzing experience to excellent use with a 6th place finish for one team and an overall win for our super team of Alexander, Freddy, Ruairi and Vicky! This team will progress to the final which will be held in March.



Our 5th and 6th Classes were lucky enough to be invited to watch the Ashton Matinee performance of their annual musical. This year the students put on a wonderful performance of Legally Blonde. We were delighted to see some of our past pupils front and centre and singing beautifully! Congratulations and thank you to all involved in the Ashton production.

As mid-term break rolled around we were happy to enjoy a cake sale on the last day, organised by our Parents' Association, while our Student Council came up with the brilliant idea of Anything But A Pencil Case Day! From buckets to bins, milk cartons to tissue boxes, the creativity was as always astonishing!

The Douglas Union of Parishes' Book Club will meet again on Tuesday 10th March at 11 am in St Mary's Church Hall, Marmullane, Passage. Last month we read "Faultlines" by Japanese author Emily Itamii. We all really enjoyed being transported to Tokyo for this book and gave us an insight into Japanese culture and family life. We also got to enjoy Emily Itamis wonderful description of the Cherry blossom Season (Hamani) which was so enticing we all wanted to include Tokyo in our next holiday destination!



One of our members recommended "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans for our next book – this takes the form of letter writing by the formidable character Sybil van Antwerp so we look forward to chatting about this on the 10th March and any other interesting reads our members have come across. If anyone would like to join the Bookclub please contact Sharon Kerr on 0868327653.

Monthly Parish Prayer Group will meet on the first Wednesday 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.



Friends of St. Luke's School Lotto Fundraiser Coffee Morning takes place in O'Sullivan's Pub, Douglas on Thursday 5th March at 10.30am-12 noon. Past pupils, family of current pupils and friends in the community - all welcome. Come have a coffee, scone and catch up and join in the fundraising lotto. Great prizes on the day for lotto entrants.

Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry Growth Conference will take place on Saturday, 25th April in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin. This will be a full-day conference, beginning with registration and refreshments, followed by plenary sessions and seminars across three time slots. To support genuine commitment and careful planning, a modest registration fee of between €10 will apply. Registration will be on an individual basis, with participants asked to select their preferred venue and seminar choices. Full details of registration will be circulated shortly. Church Growth Conference at Dublin: Registration Link - <https://bit.ly/dublin25apr>

This conference is offered as an invitation - an invitation to pause, to pray, and to believe again that, in God's power, growth is not only possible but part of His loving purpose for His Church. Our hope is that those who attend will return to their parishes encouraged in faith, renewed in vision, and equipped to sow seeds for God's Kingdom, for the sake of the Gospel and for the blessing of communities across Ireland.

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

Church Services March, 2026



Sun. 1st March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>2nd Sun in Lent</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 March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 8th March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>3rd Sun in Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Violet	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Wed. 11th March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 15th March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th Sun in Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Violet	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
Wed. 18th March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 22nd March	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>5th Sun in Lent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Violet	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
Wed. 25th March	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 29th March	9.00	St.Michael'sNSService	Blackrock
<i>Psalms Sunday</i>	11.00	United Service	Frankfield
Violet			

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