



# Parish Matters

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Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

May, 2026

## The Rector writes...

Dear friends

There are 5 Sundays in May so there will be a united service on the 31st May in Marmullane, Passage West. Not only will it be a joy to gather in our beautiful church of St Mary's and enjoy their excellent hospitality, we will also be saying a big 'thank you' and 'goodbye' to Rev Anne Skuse. We have been enormously blessed to have Anne with us for the past year and a few months. We are going to miss her but the 31st May will be our opportunity to celebrate Anne's time with us, and to give thanks to God for her ministry. Please put this date in your diaries!

As we continue to rejoice in the good news of Easter, we look forward to celebrating the birth of the Church at Pentecost on 24th May. Come Holy Spirit!

Every blessing for the beautiful month of May

*William*

## Other events in May

**Sausage Service:** Sunday 10th May will be the final sausage service at the 11.15am service in St Luke's.

**Sunday School:** The last Sunday School of the year will be on Sunday 24th May at the 11.15am service in St Luke's.

I want to take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to the Sunday School team, Dawn, Sta, and Judi. They have faithfully carried this essential ministry over many years. They are also the Sausage Service caterers! Together, we have made some exciting plans for September – of which more in next month's Parish Matters.

**Ecumenical Bible Week:** As part of the Cork Ecumenical Bible Week William will be giving a talk in St Luke's Douglas on Thursday 21st May at 7pm. The theme of his talk will be 'Women in St Luke's Gospel'.

### St. Michael's School Notes:

In the first few days of the new term the 5th and 6th class children of the Rowan Room went to the Atlantic Pond for a River Ecosystem Workshop. They observed the locality, looking at the landscape, trees and pond edge. They looked for birds, mammals and fish. They studied the pond water and tested it for temperature, ph level, phosphates and nitrates. The class had a very curious swan observing the group as they worked on collecting data. Work has started on our new Fairy



garden that was funded with a grant and generous sponsorship from our families and friends. We had an amazing group of parents that came together on a Saturday to put down artificial grass with Ms. Welch and Ms. Sweeney. The end result looks fantastic, there is still a little more work to do in the area before it's open to the pupils. On April 17th we received brilliant news from the ISSA Swimming Gala! St Michael's won the Overall Small School Gala. We were so delighted for all of the pupils who took part and we are very proud of them. It takes a huge amount of work for such an event to run smoothly, so we are very grateful to the parent volunteers who make it possible. We also have amazing

parents who volunteer each week on the deck to make our regular school swimming lessons possible. Last week the Hawthorn room was a hive of activity preparing for their jungle themed fundraiser. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop life skills, and the day was a great success. The pupils showed fantastic teamwork making jungle patterned popcorn holders for all their buyers. On April 29th some pupils from the Chestnut Room and the Rowan Room will take part in the Children's Choir, as they perform at the opening service of the Cork International Choral Festival. The group attended the City Hall on Tuesday 28th for their final practice. It is a great opportunity for them to perform alongside other schools, accompanied by professional musicians.

### **St. Luke's School News:**

We were absolutely delighted to have our first ever Sciath na Scol Camogie team in action this term! Coached by Ms Fitzgerald and Finbarr O Riordan, the girls travelled to Carrigtwohill to play the early rounds, where they won against St Vincents and drew with Carrigtwohill. They then played St Brendans in Douglas and took the win in superb fashion. While the girls were eventually defeated by Carrigtwohill in the semi-final, we are proud of the commitment and skill on display throughout!



Building on this involvement with the GAA, 5th and 6th have been enjoying excellent Gaelic football sessions with local coaches Pat and Gary.

3rd Class enjoyed a trip to UCC recently and have also been developing their athletic skills through a series of classes with Cork Sports Partnership.





Our senior classes took part in an excellent workshop given by the Heritage in schools Initiative, looking at artefacts and learning about the work of an archeologist. Our junior classes also enjoyed Heritage workshops, visiting Ballybrack woods with expert Sonia Caldwell and learning about signs of summer, as well as the names of trees and wild plants growing there.

To mark the beginning of the Annual International Choral Festival 2026, our 6th class took part in a Concert organised by Ashton School on Wednesday April 29th.

The class performed May the Road Rise to Meet You and a Medley of Canadian Folk Songs. The concert was a wonderful experience, allowing pupils to hear various choirs from Ashton as well as the magnificent Kammerchor Der Hochschule, a visiting choir from Germany!



### **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](mailto:wolhausen@gmail.com) and Anne on 0860239699 or email: [annemskuse@gmail.com](mailto:annemskuse@gmail.com).



**The Parish Bookclub** will meet again on Tuesday 12th May at 11 am in St Mary's Hall, Marmullane , Passage West.

Last month we read " The Finest Hotel in Kabul" by Lyse Doucet who is the well know chief International Correspondent with BBC. While this was a challenging read we were all more informed about the recent turbulent history of Afghanistan. The format was interesting way of making history accessible through the characters and employees who graced the Intercontinental Hotel.

Our next choice of books are “ The Longbourn Letters” by Rose Servitova (an imaginary correspondence between Mr Bennett and Mr. Collins of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice. As this is a quick read there is also option to read “ The Actress” by Anne Enright.

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



**Monthly Parish Prayer Group** takes place on Wednesday May 6th at 19.30pm and will continue on the first Wednesday of every month thereafter in the home of Kieran Hogan. Please email [douglasprayergroup@icloud.com](mailto:douglasprayergroup@icloud.com) if you would like to attend.

(Kieran Hogan)

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold it's monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age of their child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. There is no need for registration, this is 'come-as-you-are' event. We also offer online support group meetings. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

St Mary’s Marmullane and St Michael’s Blackrock are holding a joint **Coffee**



**Morning** on Saturday 23rd May from 10 am- 12 midday in St Mary’s church hall.

Plants, Books, Cakes and Raffle. €5 admission which includes refreshments.

Proceeds to PACE and church funds. Everyone welcome

Listed below are the results of the recent Douglas Easter Vestry elections

**Churchwardens :**

Shirley Clarke-Swanton & Alfred Hosford (St Mary's, Marmullane)

Aoife Bhreatnach & Jacques Jansen van Rensburg (St Luke's, Douglas)

Derek Dunne & David Kerr (St Michael's, Blackrock)

**Glebewardens:**

Mervyn Hosford & Ivan Johnston

**Select Vestry:**

Judi McCarthy, Emily O'Donoghue, Dawn Barry, Stha Gambura, Lisa Lingwood, David Perrott, Anne Hevers, Gay Elmes, Keith Dawson, Kieran Hogan, John Kershaw

**Diocesan Synod Representatives:**

Kieran Hogan, Tanya Olhausen, Janet Dillon, Lisa Lingwood, Anne Hevers, Brian McCutcheon

**Supplemental Synod Representatives:**

Emily O'Donoghue, Dawn Barry

**Parochial Nominators:** John Kershaw, Kieran Hogan, Anne Hevers, Lisa Lingwood

**Supplemental Parochial Nominators:** Derek Dunne, David Perrott, Shirley Clarke-Swanton, Vicky Coomber

# Church Services May, 2026



<b>Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter</i>	9.45	Service of the Word	Passage
White	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
	11.15	Baptism	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock
<b>Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.45	Holy Communion	Maryborough NH
<b>Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>6<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
White	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<b>Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>7<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
White	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
<b>Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Pentecost</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Red	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
<b>Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11.00	United Service	Passage
White			

## Parish Contacts:

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