

Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

November, 2026

The Rector writes…

Dear friends
What time is it? We usually interpret this question, quite rightly, as a request to know what time of the day it is. We glance at our watch or phone and provide the time. We can also hear it as a question about the time of the Christian year in which we now find ourselves. The answer to that is the season between All Saints' Day and Advent. In this season we celebrate and pray for the saints on earth. We also take time to remember; remembering especially loved ones who have already gone to be with the Lord.

What time is it? We might hear that question and wonder about our own lives. What time is it in my place of work? Where am I in this season of life? It can be important to reflect on these questions. We may need to adjust the way we spend our time or our energies. We may need to develop new practices or focus on different priorities.

What time is it? When Philosophers hear that question, they ask the bigger questions of where we are in terms of history, politics and culture. What time is it for our precious but fragile world?

These questions prepare us for the season of Advent. In the season of Advent we focus on the cosmic implications of the question: what time is it? We look back to Jesus' first advent, and we look forward to his second advent. Jesus is the One who holds time in his hands. He is, as the author of Revelation puts it, 'the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end' (Revelation 21: 6). This is the horizon against which all time is measured and judged.

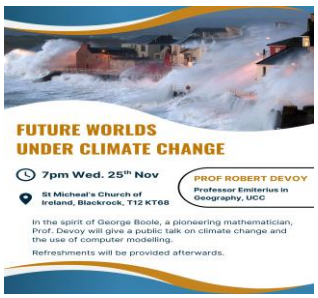
As we allow all these questions to swirl around in our hearts and minds it can be a little overwhelming! Let that sense of disorientation and awe be an invitation to prayer. Life, the world, and the universe are too much for us to bear but it's

not too much for God. These wonderful verses from the beginning of John's Gospel remind us of this and also begin to prepare us for Advent:

'All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1: 3-5)
Amen!

Baptism
18th October in St. Luke's Church, Nina Leonard (parents – Eoghan and Anya Leonard)

There are some events coming up later in November that I would like to bring to your attention.



George Boole Lecture 25th November at 7pm
The first event is a new initiative being launched by Richard Scriven. As many of you know, one of the forerunners of computing and artificial intelligence, the mathematician George Boole, is buried in the graveyard of St Michael's Blackrock. Richard is launching an annual George Boole lecture. The first of these lectures will be given by Professor Robert Devoy. Details are on this edition of parish matters. I trust this will of interest to many of you. Please take the opportunity to invite any friends who might be interested.

Advent Sunday
The second event I want to alert you to is the Advent Carol service on Sunday 29th November – Advent Sunday – in Blackrock at 10am. As it is a fifth Sunday of the month, it will be a united service. It will also be a gift day – our treasurer, John Kershaw, has written to everyone in the parish with further details of this.

Sunday 6th December
Finally, the first Sunday in December, the second Sunday of Advent. There will be two special events that day – the United Family Service in St Luke's at 10am, which will be a Christingle service and the Marmullane ecumenical carol service at 7pm with the Passage West folk group in attendance. I am really looking forward to celebrating Advent and I know these times together will be joy-filled occasions. Again, they are opportunities to invite family and friends.

Every blessing for November! ***William***

St. Luke's School News



We were delighted to welcome 26 brand new Junior Infants to St Luke's this year. They quickly settled in and have enjoyed a range of activities with their 6th class buddies, from playground games to a walk in Ballybrack woods.

Our Junior Infants were not the only new faces in the school, as we welcomed three new teachers also this term- Ms Caoimhe Kennedy (Junior Infant teacher), Mr Rory O Sullivan (SEN) and Ms Orla O Sullivan (SEN).



Our high energy levels were put to good use over the past half-term, with a new challenge for all pupils; as part of the Active Flag Initiative, classes undertook a 'Run around the EU' project. Each class chose one country and collectively clocked up enough laps of the school yard to get to their country- fitness and fun in equal measures!

Our senior classes have been enjoying Cricket lessons recently while our Junior classes have been working hard on their soccer skills!

We also were well represented in the Annual Fota Cross Country Cup which took place on October 6th. 50 athletes from 2nd to 6th class attended and all showed outstanding resilience and sportsmanship as they took on the tough cross country course! We are also incredibly proud of our Sciath na Scol Football team who have qualified for the final! This will take place very soon- watch this space!





6th Class represented the school recently at the Diocesan Service in St Peter's Church in Bandon, which was a wonderful opportunity to meet our New Bishop, the Right Revd. Andrew Orr. 6th class sang beautifully at the service, while we had various pupils reading, carrying the banner, delivering our collection money and, most enjoyably, ringing our school bell!





St. Michael's School News

Before the mid term the children and staff of St Michael's were very busy preparing for Halloween and the many other events that took place. Firstly, the whole school was very excited and proud to support our pupil Sofia who walked 100km in October for Dwarfism Awareness Month.. The whole school wore green (the colour for Dwarfism awareness week) and joined Sofia in a walk to add to her tally. Sofia is a great ambassador for the charity and managed to exceed her €5,000 target. 10 pupils had a Green School's Bee Conservation Workshop with Signe Martin. There were four parts to the workshop, and after completing each part they got a stamp on their "Bee Passports". They had to find the parts of different bees and put the jigsaw pieces together as well as plan a bee friendly garden. Before that they had to identify the flower of a tree by its fruit/nuts. They learnt all about solitary bees, miners and honey bees. It was a very informative workshop. After the midterm workshops were held where the Green School Committee imparted their knowledge to the rest of the school. Towards the end of the mid term 5th and 6th class pupils in Rowan Room hosted a Bake Sale. There was a very impressive range of baking and they managed to raise a great amount that will help pay for their school tour in the Summer. We were also very impressed with the great imagination and hard work put into all the costumes our pupils wore to celebrate Halloween on the last day of the mid term. Everyone got to see each other's costumes during the Halloween Parade and the mini disco that followed. Just before the mid term Rowan Room took part in the Diocesan Primary Schools Service where they joined with all of the schools in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. This was Bishop Andrew Orr's first Diocesan Schools' Service. He gave each school bulbs to plant, to symbolise new beginnings. During November the children and staff of St Michael's will be supporting Team Hope and filling shoe boxes that will be delivered to countries where children are in need.

Pastoral visiting and Home Communion

Please contact William on 0871660356 or email: wolhausen@gmail.com if you or a family member would like a home visit.

Monthly Parish Prayer Group takes place on Wednesday November, 4th at 19.30pm and will continue on the first Wednesday of every month thereafter in the home of Kieran & Rosie Hogan. Please email douglasprayergroup@icloud.com if you would like to attend. *Kieran Hogan*

The **Parish Bookclub** will meet again on Tuesday the 10th November at 11am in the hall beside St. Mary's Church, Marmullane, Passage West. While most of us enjoyed reading Cork author Catherine Ryan's Howard thriller " Buyer Beware" some of us felt there was a lot of characters to contend with and jumping timelines but the author did keep us interested in this tense unnerving read. Our next book choice " Theo of Golden" by American author Allen Levi is definitely a more calmer read than the last one so we look forward to sharing our views on this novel. If anyone would like to join our little Bookclub they would be very welcome and if interested please contact Sharon Kerr on 086 8327653

Anam Cara's next Bereavement Information Evening will centre around where creativity intersects with grief with renowned author and psychotherapist, Sasha Bates. This event is open to all parents whose child or children have died, regardless of the age of their child, circumstances of their death, or time since bereavement. This event will take place online on Thursday 19 November at 7pm. Bereaved parents are warmly invited to register here: Register here for Anam Cara Online Bereavement Information Evening

St. Nicholas Brass Band Annual Gala Concert will take place on Sunday, 22nd November at 4.30pm in St. Michael's Church, Blackrock. Come and join them for an afternoon of beautiful music. Suitable for all ages. Tickets €15 at the door (children U16 are free)



Ardfallen November Annual Fair will take place on Saturday, 14th November from 10.30am – 2.30pm in the Cork Methodist Church, Ardfallen Centre, Douglas. Tea, coffee & lunches available. Donations on the door to the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

Church Services November, 2026



Sun. 8th November

3rd Sun before Advent	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

Sun. 15th November

2nd Sun before Advent	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

Sun. 22nd November

The Kingship of Christ	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
White	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

Sun. 29th November

1st Sun of Advent	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Violet	10.00	United Service	Blackrock

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