



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

May 2021

The Rector writes.....

From the Sanctuary to the Sofa and back again!

This month our churches will be open again for public worship. It seems so long since we last met in church on Christmas Day. Since then, our Parish YouTube Channel has served its purpose and we have been able to continue to spend time in worship as well as keep up a link to our parish. However now has come the time to recalibrate.

Recently I came across a piece of interesting research by the London School of Economics Religion and Global Society Unit. It focused on **young people and their experience of faith during the Covid-19 pandemic**. While those questioned were from London, I suspect our experience in this country is not too dissimilar.

Approximately 72% of respondents reported that the pandemic changed the way they practise their faith, with many adopting new private religious practices in the home or joining services online. Despite fluency in online platforms, an easy transition to virtual gatherings, and ease of access to religious content, the participants were, as one interviewee put it, **fatigued by "one-sided worship" online**. It was interesting to note that of the young people surveyed, 81% said that they had not joined any new worshipping communities, but instead reverted to the communities they already knew. They were online with the same people they would have met physically at church if they could go there. When discussing the process of exploring new places of worship during the pandemic, one contributor put it succinctly by saying, "Zoom is a weird way to get to know people".

The article went on to describe both the **'vertical' and 'horizontal' dimensions of faith**; the vertical being our experience of and relationship with God and the horizontal being the social dimension of worship and engaging in activities with likeminded people. While virtual worship can sustain the former, it has a much smaller role in sustaining the latter. Those involved in the research recognised this and emphasised the importance of sacred space and the church building. As one interviewee put it, "a lot of people within my faith community would say that the way that they feel most connected to their faith is by being in that place of worship. Because it's more than a space of worship, it's also a social space, and I think that's a big, big part of it".

It was interesting to note that while 70% of the participants believed that online gatherings would persist in some form, the desire to return to a sacred space was overwhelming.

In this issue of Parish Matters, you will see our list of services for this month. Each church will have a service every Sunday. Remember, the maximum attendance is limited to 50 for the time being. Please spread yourselves across all four churches over the summer so that we can accommodate up to 200 people on a Sunday morning if we need to. Services are on early, mid and late Sunday morning and so avail of the slot that suits you even if it is not in the church that you usually attend. In addition, there will be a mid-week service of Holy Communion in St Luke's Church at 11am every Wednesday throughout the summer if you want to attend a quiet service. This will be the pattern for the summer and then we will review plans going forward into the autumn when presumably the vaccination programme will be nearing completion and life, we hope, will be back to something like it was before March 2020.

It is good that our church buildings will have their doors open wide again. They serve multiple functions and have many purposes. They are spaces for religious devotion but also centres of community. They are places of teaching but also of socialising. Young people understand this, and it is why they are keen to return to these sacred and social spaces. I hope those of you reading this, who might not consider yourselves as 'young', share in that sentiment!

Yours in Christ, *Adrian.*



Please support Rev Tony Murphy's 100km Walk for Burundi

Dear Clergy & Friends,

As you are aware the United Dioceses of Cork Cloyne & Ross has developed a strong link with the Anglican Church of Burundi and the Diocese of Makamba (the Burundi Maize Project) in the southern part of the country. It agreed to fund an agricultural development project in Burundi from 2017-2019 and then agreed to extend this support for a further 3 years from 2020-2022. The existing state of agriculture in Burundi has many problems, many of which existed in Ireland in the past. The farms are very small, the food is subsistence, the type of crop has low nutritional value, there is little access to finance to gain more land or improve the outputs.

However as normal fundraising has ceased due to Covid 19 and the lockdown the Revd Tony Murphy (who travelled to Burundi in 2019 to witness the Cork Diocesan project partnership) has come up with an unique fund raising walk across the united dioceses in May. The key purpose is to raise funds to support the Christian Aid project in Burundi. Rev Tony Murphy will walk 5km in each parish, reaching over 105km over the 31 days of May.

On Tuesday, 11th May Ven Adrian Wilkinson will join him in a 5K walk in Douglas. The income target is approximately €5,000 (perhaps €500 in each area/parish). So to help in raising the necessary funds for this project, we have two main options for those who are in a position to support it ;

1. A Just Giving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walking4burundi>
2. Or individuals and parishes may forward funds to the Diocesan Secretary in the normal fashion. However with a note that the funds are specifically for the Diocesan Burundi Project.

Many thanks for your interest and support.

Andrew Coleman Church & Community Officer, Christian Aid Ireland



Church of Ireland
**United Dioceses of
Cork, Cloyne & Ross**



'Walk for Burundi 2021.'

5k Sponsored walks in the parishes during the month of May with Rev. Tony Murphy.

- 11am Tuesday 11th May.
- From Blackrock Castle to walk the Mahon Loop

To support the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Burundi Project for Growing and processing maize contact:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walking4burundi>



St Luke's School Notes

It was wonderful to reopen our doors again and welcome all our pupils and teachers back to school in person on a staggered basis in March. There were great reunions in the playground! Despite Remote Learning all our pupils and teachers were very engaged in assignments, zoom lessons, zoom assemblies, video making and various activities on Google Classroom. Our IT Skills have really improved during the past year! We really want to thank our parents for all their support during these most unusual times.



Even though we couldn't meet up, our Parents' Association managed to organise an Easter Art Competition and Easter Raffle.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Helen Wilson-O'Brien on the death of her father and to Audrey Coulter on the death of her aunt.

We now look forward to a Summer term when we hope to engage in many outdoor activities.

St. Michael's School Notes

We are absolutely delighted to be back to school and have been very busy upon our return. We are so happy to welcome Ms. Tracey Nolan to our staff as our new SNA. We have welcomed three Student Teachers who are completing their placements with us this term. They have been delivering exciting lessons and are working extremely hard alongside Ms. Bowden, Ms O'Donovan and Ms Campbell.



A huge thank you to our Parents' Association, who have been extremely busy painting, cleaning and grass cutting over the past few weeks. Our school grounds are looking fabulous. Thank you all!

This term we are taking part in Creative Schools Week. Each class is contributing to our whole school mural. We are very excited to see the finished product! Keep an eye out for some pictures on our social media pages over the next few weeks for updates.

We are looking forward to welcoming Robbie back for our outdoor singing lessons in the coming weeks. The children enjoy these lessons immensely.

We are hoping the weather will continue to allow us to spend more time outdoors for our last term. We have some lovely outdoor activities organised for June such as our Fun Sports' Day and some class picnics.

Parish Contacts:

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Parish Website: www.douglas.cork.anglican.org Follow us on Twitter: @DouglasUnion

CHURCH SERVICES – May 2021

Wednesday 12th May	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Thursday 13th May	11.00	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Sunday 16th May	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>7th Sun. of Easter</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
Wednesday 19th May	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sunday 23rd May	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Pentecost</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Red	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
Wednesday 26th May	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sunday 30th May	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
White	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock*

**Note on the last Sunday of the month only, the 8.30 in Blackrock moves to 11.30. All services in the other churches remain at the same time each Sunday.*

Prayer in preparation for Reopening Church Buildings

Creator God, not limited by time or space;
your Son worshipped in synagogue and Temple,
and your Spirit came in power on the disciples as they
met in the Upper Room.

By that same Spirit,
guide us as we prepare to reopen the churches in this
parish.

May they be places of safety,
where all feel your welcome, experience your love and
are equipped in your service.

We pray for those who through age or vulnerability
will continue to worship at home,
that together we may all rejoice in your goodness and
know your blessing,
until we can offer unceasing praise in your heavenly
kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

