



Church of Ireland
**United Dioceses of
Cork, Cloyne & Ross**
Douglas Union, with Frankfield

Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union, with Frankfield

April 2022

The Rector writes.....

For me **Maundy Thursday** (14th April this year) is one of the most moving days in the church calendar. While I love the excitement and anticipation of both Christmas and Easter mornings, Maundy Thursday is different. On this special night, we remember the Last Supper when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples one last time, before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. It is full of drama when all the human senses need to be deployed in worship. We have the touch of the water used to wash the disciples' feet, the taste of the Eucharist, the sound of the gospel narrative and hymns reminding us of Jesus' mandate to 'love one another', the stripping of the altar at the end of the service, as eyesight is strained when the lights are dimmed, and finally the departure from church in silence. It demands a lot from both the clergy and congregation, but it is also contemplative and reflective. I hope to see many of you at St Luke's Church for the service this year.



In this newsletter, you will be able to read the full text of a Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin regarding the return of the use of the Common Cup or Chalice at services of Holy Communion. Please read it in detail. For two years now because of the Covid pandemic, the practice of the Church of Ireland has been at variance with what was re-established at the time of the Reformation, when Holy Communion was administered in both kinds (bread and wine), to both the clergy and people. Indeed, this was the norm in the Early Church following on from the tradition of the Last Supper. From Maundy Thursday in this parish, we will return to this ancient practice. The congregation is asked to come forward to the communion rails as before, remove their mask if they are wearing one, and receive the consecrated bread in their hands. They will also be given the chalice. Please take it and receive as you feel comfortable. However, if you still prefer to receive in one kind only for the time being, please still take the chalice and return it to the priest. Do not feel awkward. I request that you come forward to the rails and receive communion, rather than remain in your pew.

In some denominations, the wine is distributed in separate glasses or cups. In the Anglican Communion, of which we are a part, we have always resisted this for a variety of reasons. The gospels suggest Jesus took one cup and gave it to all his disciples to drink. There is a powerful challenge in this. We are reminded of the agonising decision that faced Jesus when he was praying before the crucifixion: 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' (Matthew 26:39). We are also reminded by the one cup that we cannot drink it alone. We drink from a common cup as a strong symbol of unity and our willingness to accept each other. We share our love and lives as we share the cup. The implications of this for fellowship and support in the local church, for relationships between rich and poor in communities and nations, and for justice between first world and developing countries are enormous. The cup of love and unity is unavoidably also a cup of sacrifice.

As we take this one last and very important step back to normality in our churches, I wish you all a good Holy Week and a very happy Easter.

Yours in Christ, *Adrian*

St Luke's School Notes

We had two very welcome and famous visitors at our recent Outdoor Assembly – Bobby Tambling and Brendan (Buzz) O'Connell. Bobby is a former Chelsea and England soccer player who was awarded a "Golden Boot" for his goal scoring achievements. He spoke to the children, answered questions and showed them his England caps and Golden Boot. We are very honoured that both he and Buzz coach our soccer players every week. World Book Day was celebrated this year by pupils designing and making their own hats showing their favourite book or character. We had a very colourful parade of hats in the playground displaying the amazing creative talent of our pupils. All staff and pupils enjoyed a "Comfy Day" on 5th March when we were all allowed to wear comfortable clothes to school! Over €3,000 was raised for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. Thank you to all who gave so generously to this worthy cause. We were delighted to congratulate St Luke's Home on being 150 years old! Each pupil made a card for the residents and staff to mark their "Big Birthday".



St. Michael's School Notes

We have had a very busy few weeks in St Michael's, and we can't believe how quickly Term 2 is passing by. For St Patrick's Day our pupils had a Green Day on the 16th of March, and each class took part in a sponsored walk on our local Greenway. We want to thank all of our parents for the very generous amount raised for this event, and also to thank our PA for organising it. Our 5th and 6th Class are preparing for two performances at the Cork International Choral Festival. This will take place over the May Bank Holiday Weekend. The whole school has enjoyed the sound of beautiful singing while they are practising. We want to thank Ms Campbell, their teacher and Mr Carroll from St Finbarre's Cathedral Choir for helping the class to prepare so well.



Our Teacher Artist Partnership (TAP) project is nearly finished. We just have one more visit from Julie Forrester. 1st and 2nd Class have created beautiful stop motion videos with their artwork.

The Church of Ireland Gazette and Cork Diocesan Magazine are looking for new subscribers. If you would like to subscribe, please contact the Rectory. The annual subscription for the Church of Ireland Gazette is €45 and the Cork Diocesan Magazine is €25. There are also always some spare Cork Diocesan Magazines to purchase at the back of St. Luke's Church each month for €2.50.



Prayers for Peace The unfolding crisis in Eastern Europe due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine is truly horrific. On 3 March in this parish, our church bells were rung in solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine. Last month, retiring collections were taken in aid of the Irish Red Cross appeal for this crisis. The total collected from Douglas Union was €2,231.57 and from Frankfield was €694. Thank you for your generous response. The suffering because of this war may drag on for many more months, but we passionately pray for peace, so that lives will be saved, and further disaster averted.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over our world and the people of Ukraine now, and in the weeks to come. Guide all leaders in knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. In the passion of protest, give us open hearts that we may be generous to all appeals for help; in the complexities of the issues we face, give us courage and wisdom so that peace and justice may prevail. Accept and fulfil our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter We are in the season of Lent. The word itself comes from an old English word meaning 'the lengthening of days' or Spring. It is about re-energising what has always been there, even if it has lain dormant.



As a parish we have a programme of activities to encourage spiritual growth. The last session of our '**Seeds for Sunday**' series being run on Zoom is on Wednesday 6 April. Please contact the Rector if you want to be sent the link.

On Sunday 3 April, 16 parishioners will be involved in reading **Mark's Gospel** in one sitting between 9.30 and 11.00 in St Luke's Church. It is hoped that others may come and take the opportunity to hear this Gospel in totality. It is the shortest of the four and refreshments will be served before the service starts at 11.15.

Every Friday afternoon a group of parishioners meet in a different part of the parish to accompany the rector on an hour long **walk** and end up at a coffee shop for conversation. We are meeting at 2.30 in the main carpark in Tramore Valley Park on 1 April and in the carpark beside Blackrock Castle for the final walk on 8 April. Such activities are important for both **mental and spiritual health**.



Finally for **Holy Week**, we will welcome back a former curate as our guest preacher – **Canon Eithne Lynch**. She will be preaching at our evening services in St Luke's Church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Many in this parish remember her ministry with affection and thanksgiving. She was initially to come to us in 2020, but now, as we move towards a pre pandemic normality, we pick up where we left off.

Eithne writes...*"Holy Thursday draws us to the table, in the company of Jesus and the disciples as he begins to speak his final words on this side of his dying. The disciples will not understand everything Jesus has to say, will not be able to comprehend fully the importance of what he is telling them, but nevertheless his words will burn themselves into their hearts. These are the words that will return to the disciples later, in that bewildering time known as 'after'. These are the words that will comfort them and also stir their courage for the path that waits for them still.*

But for now, they, and we, are at the table. As the night unfolds, we will see that the word at the centre of Jesus' vocabulary is this: Love."

On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week, short services of Compline with a meditation by the parish clergy will be held in St Luke's Church at 7.30pm.

On Easter morning we look forward to celebrating the joy of the resurrection. All our services are included in this edition of the 'Parish Matters' newsletter.

Easter General Vestry Dates These annual general meetings will be held for Douglas Union on 26 April at 8pm in St Luke's Church and on Wednesday 27 April for Frankfield in Holy Trinity Church. Each meeting will be preceded by a short service of Holy Communion. All parishioners are welcome to attend.



Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 6th April at 7:15pm in the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs, Cork City. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378.

The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, and the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, issued the following pastoral letter to the members of the Church of Ireland on St Patrick's Day (17th March 2022):

Receiving the consecrated wine in the Holy Communion by means of the Common Cup (Chalice) is the norm in the teaching and tradition of the Church of Ireland and in the Anglican Communion in general. However, in light of public health advice issued at various times during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the House of Bishops circulated guidance, first on the spiritual efficacy of receiving Holy Communion in One Kind, and subsequently giving permission for the use of individual cups in strictly regulated circumstances.

Mindful of the unambiguous injunction contained in Article 30 of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, we took these decisions reluctantly and with the stated intention of a return to the Anglican norm as soon as it was considered safe to do so, following independent advice, as has been our practice throughout the pandemic.

With the general phasing out of restrictions in most social settings, the House of Bishops has sought independent expert scientific advice on the return to the use of the Common Cup in Holy Communion. The advice we have received is that such a return would be reasonable now, especially in a vaccinated population and where anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 is encouraged to stay away from church services.

We have also been advised that wiping the rim of the chalice between each communicant (preferably with a linen cloth) will reduce the bacterial burden by up to 90%. Needless to say, great care should be taken in the cleansing of linens (purificators, corporals) and vessels (flagons, cruets, chalice, ciborium, lavabo etc.) before and after Holy Communion.

The Bishops received this scientific advice prior to the recent meeting of the House of Bishops and, with great joy, returned to the use of the Common Cup at our celebration of the Eucharist on that occasion.

We realise that a general return to the Common Cup in Holy Communion will take time to achieve. Many of us were taken by surprise at how rapidly most social restrictions were relaxed or completely removed, and have continued to practice our own forms of mitigation and self-restraint, so there will be those who will be cautious about receiving communion from a chalice.

There will be local factors which will need to be taken into account, as there have been for other forms of Covid mitigations. At present there is no cut-off point at which either Communion on One Kind or using individual cups should be replaced by the use of the Common Cup. However, we would urge parishes to give some thought as to how the return to our norm, without undue delay, will be achieved in a manner that creates sufficient confidence to allow that moment to be genuinely joyful. In the meantime, no new permissions will be given for the use of individual cups.

Finally, we would emphasise that while no individual communicant should feel under immediate pressure to drink from a common vessel, the expert advice is clear in its implication that there is now no pressing reason to withhold the shared cup from faithful people who earnestly desire to partake of it.

+John Armagh
+Michael Dublin



Psyched are offering a professional support programme entitled “**Reflect and Re- Engage – Exploring Workplace Change & Mental Health**” in the context of the current phase of the Covid 19 pandemic”. This is an innovative, free, online programme which will be delivered over 4 weeks in two hour sessions to staff of Cork workplaces on Tuesday afternoons in April or alternatively on Wednesday mornings during April / May time. This course is open to staff of the private, public sector, community and voluntary sector / charities / NGOs. For more information please email/phone Aoife Ni chonchuir on aoife.nichonchuir@hse.ie / 087/2288271.

Parish Contacts:

Ven. Adrian Wilkinson, Tel: 4891539. E-mail: adrianwilkinson3@gmail.com (Day off Monday)

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Follow us on Twitter: @DouglasUnion

Church Services –April 2022



Sun. 3rd April	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
Violet	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock

NB No service in Passage. Reading of *Mark's Gospel* in Douglas 9.30 -11am

Wed. 6th April	11.30	Holy Communion	Douglas
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Sun. 10th April	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>6th Sunday in Lent</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
Palm Sunday	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
Red	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock

Mon. 11th April	7.30pm	Compline	Douglas
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Tues. 12th April	7.30pm	Compline	Douglas
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Wed. 13th April	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
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	7.30pm	Compline	Douglas
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Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
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Good Friday	12.00	'By the Cross'	Blackrock
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	2.00pm	'By the Cross'	Frankfield
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	7.30pm	Evening Service	Douglas
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Sun. 17th April	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
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<i>Easter Day</i>	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
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<i>White</i>	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
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	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
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	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
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Wed. 20th April	<i>NB No Holy Communion Service this week.</i>		
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Sun. 24th April	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
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<i>2nd Sun of Easter</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
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<i>White</i>	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
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	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
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	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock
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Wed. 27th April	11.00	Holy Communion	Blackrock
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