



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

February, 2025

The Rector writes...

Dear friends

As we come to the end of Epiphany we look forward to celebrating the final feast of the season this Sunday: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (sometimes called 'Candlemas'). Faithful Simeon and Ann in the Jerusalem Temple experience a dramatic epiphany as they see and pray over the infant Jesus, Israel's promised King and Messiah. On Sunday this event will inform our worship. At St Luke's we shall also be having a special sausage service – which will include the baptism of Nina Hannon! Nina's great uncle, Rev Prof. Patrick Hannon, will be our preacher and he will also assist me with the baptism. Some of you might remember Fr Pat from his previous visit to St Luke's.

We have also just started the confirmation classes for 2025. The first one was on Wednesday in the Canon Packham Hall and in the school hall. We got off to a great start with all hands to the pump. This year there are 20 candidates. Please do pray for them and for their families: Emily, Drew, Aaron, Alice, Sadie, Lana, Samuel, Chiemezuo, Lauren, John, Harriet, Isabelle, Beatrice, Shania, Isabella, Casey, Isaac, Harry, Sarah, and Graham.

2025 is, of course, St Luke's 150th birthday. You will remember that we launched a major project to service and restore the organ. At the same time the wall behind the organ is now ready to be re-plastered and painted. It turns out that organs are quite complicated pieces of machinery and different experts have different views on the best course of action! We are doing everything we can to ensure we make the right decision for the needs that we have as a parish. We hope to make some firm decisions very soon and will continue to keep you all informed.

As part of the 150th celebrations, I had committed to inviting back previous clergy members of the parish. I am delighted that 4 current members of the house of bishops will be joining us for special celebrations later this year: Bishop Ferran Glenfield (Sunday 29th June), Bishop Adrian Wilkinson(!) (Sunday 31st August), Bishop Michael Burrows (Sunday 12th October), and, of course, our own Bishop Paul (Sunday 30th November). Please make a note in your diaries now. In addition, Rev David Bowles will be with us on Sunday 8th June. I am currently in the process of extending invites to the remaining Douglas clergy family! I hope you will be encouraged to hear how pleased they were to be invited. I think this speaks volumes for the affection they have for the parish and their time here.

Every blessing

William

St. Luke's School Notes:

Despite a bumpy start with snow, ice and a red alert storm warning, the Spring term is in full swing in St Luke's. We ended last term with two beautiful carol services that saw the church full to capacity on both occasions. In addition, we raised €1563 for our School Support Fund, for which we are very grateful. We were also delighted to welcome back past pupil Colm McCarthy, who paid us a visit before the holidays. Colm is the current Irish record holder for solving a Rubik Cube... BLINDFOLDED! We were mesmerised by his skill and speed!



5th Class have started the new year with a new face at the top of the room- we welcomed Ms Jemma Barry who began her block of Teaching Practice. 5th and 6th also enjoyed a trip to Ashton School to watch an amazing performance of Singin' in The Rain. We thank Ashton for their kind invitation and congratulate them on another wonderful production!

Junior infants led a beautiful assembly recently. They talked about everyone being special to God and showed some lovely pictures.

We are looking forward to some signs of Spring soon and plenty of outdoor activities as the evenings stretch and the mornings brighten!

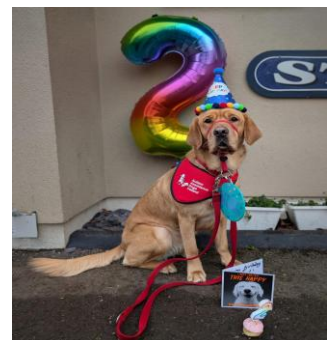
St. Michael's School Notes:

Just before we went our separate ways to enjoy our Christmas holidays, we were delighted to welcome parents to our whole school performance of "Strictly Christmas". Our pupils were spectacular in their performances, and we were incredibly proud of all the hard work that they put into learning their lines and dance moves.



The staff worked so hard to support the children and were led by Ms Bowden, who not only produced the show, but also wrote and choreographed it! It was wonderful to see our pupils so excited to take to the stage! We have had a very busy time in St Michael's since we returned for 2025. The Chestnut and Rowan

Rooms travelled to Ashton School to see the Transition Year musical called "Singing in the Rain". This was a lovely trip and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing some of our past pupils in the spotlight. In January, Biscuit, our Autism Assistance Dog turned 2 ! As part of Biscuit's Birthday celebrations and our link with AADI, we held a fundraiser in aid of AADI on Monday, 20th January. The whole school did a sponsored walk and were rewarded with a birthday cupcake each on their return to school. We had a lovely walk together and raised a whopping €1,597! Our various school committees have been very active. Our school council has been busy planning a Movie Night Fundraiser for the whole school. There will be a movie for the junior end of the school and another for the senior end. The school council gave a choice of movie and everybody had a chance to vote for their favourite. In February the children will watch "Garfield" and "Cool



Runnings". In Green Schools News, the results of the competition which asked all pupils of the school to compose their own Water Green Code were announced. We got loads of entries from individuals, pairs, groups, even whole classes. The winner was hard to pick and it was whittled down to three entries. The present Green Schools Committee voted for their favourite and a winner was picked. It was :“Water Water” by 5th Class pupils, Róisín, Ellen, Matilda and Bláithín. A new committee has been formed and will guide the school in obtaining The Amber Flag. In association with Pieta House, the Amber Flag aims to educate schools about well being and its importance. The Amber Flag committee has exciting projects planned including a well being themed Mural. Watch this space for further developments!



The Douglas Union of Parishes’ Book Club will meet again in the parish hall beside St Mary’s Church in Marmullane (Passage West) on Tuesday 12th February. Last month we discussed “The Wartime Bookclub” by Kate Thompson set in occupied Jersey during the Second World War. Our next choice of book is “Orbital” by Samantha Harvey. We are looking forward to reading this as it’s a little different set in space outlining the

lives of six astronauts over 24 hours. We are always delighted to welcome new members and if anyone would like to join our little group please contact Sharon Kerr on 086 8327653.

The **Junior choir** resumes practise, Sunday 9th February at 4:15pm in the Canon Packham Hall before the Sausage service. To enquire please contact Veronica, veronicatadmanpianolessons@gmail.com.



Sausage Service

9th February at 5pm Sausage Service in the Canon Packham Hall.

Pastoral visiting and Home Communion

I am always available to visit members of the parish who now find it difficult to attend church services. In accordance with the recent House of Bishops’ guidelines on pastoral visiting, it is important that a third party is present – preferably a family member. I would therefore be very grateful if a family member contacts me so a mutually convenient time can be arranged. *Rev William*

Monthly Parish Prayer Group will meet on the first Thursday of every month by zoom @ 7.30pm. Please email douglasprayergroup@icloud.com if you would like the link. (Kieran Hogan)

Church of Ireland Central Communications Board Commissioned Writing Project 2025

The Church of Ireland's Central Communications Board is seeking freelance writers who are interested in exploring and sharing a range of stories from the Church's history and current mission and ministry across the island of Ireland. Themes for this project can include art, culture and architecture, the environment and human interest angles. The Church of Ireland is present in over 1,000 local communities and has 29 cathedrals, and forms part of the

worldwide Anglican Communion. If you would like to discuss an idea for publication, and the potential placement of an article, please get in touch with the Church of Ireland Press Officer, Peter Cheney, on 028 9082 8880 or by email: peter.cheney@rcbcoi.org.



On the 22nd February there will be a CDYC Youth Event in Inflata Bounce Zone and food at Airtastic, Cork. If you would like to attend please email me at dyc@corkchurchofireland.com to reserve your place and booking form will be sent to you. *Hilda Connolly*

The Thursday Walkers by Ida Lee

On Thursday the walkers step out and about.

If there's hail, rain or snow, it could be in doubt.

The meeting place changes from week to week,

Passage West, the Lee Fields, when a flat walk we seek.

Other venues from which we embark,

are Blackrock, The Marina and Tramore Valley Park.

A stop at half way for coffee and chat,

is what is desired and to do 'this or that'!!

Starting at 10.30 am and finishing when the world's put to rights,

we head home once again.



Church Services February, 2025



Sun. 2nd February	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>Presentation of Christ</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. 5th February	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
White	11.45	Holy Communion	Maryborough NH
Sun. 9th February	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
<i>4th Sun before Lent</i>	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
Green	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	5pm	Sausage Service	Canon Packham Hall
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Parish Contacts:

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

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