



Parish Matters

Newsletter of Douglas Union with Frankfield

April, 2025

The Rector writes...

One verse from our New Testament reading in church earlier in March grabbed my attention. The Apostle Paul writes this: *'if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved'* (Rom. 10: 9). We might have expected Paul to put this the other way round so that belief comes before confession, but the puzzle is solved when we see that Paul is interpreting an important verse from the book of Deuteronomy: *'...the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe'* (Deut. 30: 14). For Israel, this 'word' relates to all the commandments that made up the covenant Moses and the people made with the Lord at Sinai. This was not a salvation matter for Israel – they had already been saved through the waters of the Red Sea! The covenant was the gracious framework God provided for them so that they could be his people and enjoy his presence. While Israel struggled to be faithful, Jesus lived in perfect faithfulness and obedience to God – even to death. As Paul writes elsewhere, *'he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross'* (Phil. 2: 8). Jesus' resurrection was God's glorious vindication of his life (words and deeds) and death.

Consequently, two truths are to be in our mouth and in our heart: *'Jesus is Lord'* and *'God has raised Jesus from the dead'*. As one commentator has put it, *'The gospel...is "near" to us because it requires only what our own hearts and mouths can do; and when we respond, it brings near to us God's salvation'*. This is the word that calls forth faith. We can make Christianity so complicated that we miss the beautiful simplicity of it. The living Word is always hovering or brooding over us calling for a response so that the Spirit can create us anew day by day. With the women at the empty tomb on that first Easter Day, we too can find ourselves caught up in God's great drama of salvation.

The confession 'Jesus is Lord' was a very dangerous one to make in an Empire where only Caesar was 'Lord'. Why would you risk imprisonment and death to challenge the political supremacy of Caesar unless you knew the truth about the world – that God had raised Jesus from the dead, that Jesus was the true Lord. This is our Easter confession. It is exhilarating, it is world-changing, life-changing, but costly. It is the Word of faith: a word of truth, of humility, and of unconditional love. It remains the antidote to the words of misinformation, the will-to-power, and the transactional or nationalistic 'love' of Empire past and present. As we celebrate Easter, Let's keep on reaching for the Word that is near.

Confirmation

We concluded our confirmation preparation at the beginning of March, a few days before the Saturday morning gathering of all the confirmands in Ashton School with Bishop Paul and a large team of facilitators and helpers. A big 'thank you' to all those who worked so hard to deliver an excellent few hours of fun and learning together!

Lent Study

We are enjoying our Wednesday Lent Study group, led very well by Rev Meghan Farr on the Bible's Big Story. It is very encouraging to meet old friends and new from St Anne's Shandon! The study concludes on Thursday 9th April.

St Luke's 150th

The Douglas Union Vestry continues to think and pray about how we can best mark the 150th birthday of St Luke's as we look to the future.

New addition to the pastoral team

Finally, I am delighted that the Rev Anne Skuse has recently joined the pastoral team of the parish on a part-time basis until a permanent assistant priest can be appointed. This is very welcome news (especially for me!), and we are very grateful to Anne and look forward to getting to know her better over the weeks ahead! *William*

St. Michael's School Notes: Here is a March snapshot of life in St Michael's...

Thursday 6th March was World Book Day and we were blown away by the incredible entries to the Potato Book Day Competition. The variety of characters was just amazing, showcasing our pupils' creativity and ingenuity. It was extremely hard to judge, thank you to Dorian for taking on such a difficult task. We chose today for our dress up day for World Book Day. Again, we were so impressed with all of the imagination shown through everyone's costumes (photo below)! Our 1st to 6th Class took part in the Ash Wednesday service in St Fin Barre's Cathedral on Wednesday. As always, our pupils were fantastic ambassadors for our school at a very busy service. Next Tuesday, 11th, is our Green Day, or Lá Glas, which is the culmination of two years of work towards achieving our second Green School's Flag. The focus of this Green Flag is Water. We would like to encourage all of our pupils to wear green on Tuesday to mark this occasion, and we will also mark it with a very special whole school assembly. We are currently in the middle of Seachtain na Gaeilge (1 - 17 Márta). Next week we have many exciting activities to promote Gaeilge, including "Frása an Lae" (Phrase of the Day), a raffle, Daily Social Media Posts, Irish Signage and Irish dancing. Today was our last session of tennis for this school year. Our tennis team are participating in the Munster Tennis School's Competition and they will play Gaelscoil Thomais Daibhis on Monday.



St. Luke's School Notes:



Our Spring term continues to move at a brisk pace, with plenty of activities in and out of the classroom. We literally put that brisk pace to the test with a fabulous whole-school Spring Walk to the Community Park on March 11th. Blue skies and dry conditions underfoot meant the whole school could do



plenty of laps of the park before enjoying some playtime on the grass and in the courts.

Bhi craic agus ceol againn le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge fresin! The week kicked off with an energetic Céilí for all classes, led by Rang a Sé. Senior classes also enjoyed a Cluiche Biongó, and Seachtain na Gaeilge concluded with a Lá Glas and our own version of a Patrick's Day parade in the schoolyard! Rang a Sé also held a Cake Sale, where some amazing cakes, cookies and other treats were on offer.



We have also had a variety of different sports experts into the school to help develop skills and interests in new activities. Ms Jemma Barry gave an excellent Golf workshop to all classes, while 1st class have been enjoying a block of Athletics training with Annette Quaid from Cork Sports Partnerships. 3rd to 6th Class have been working on their Cricket Skills with Rory from Cork Sports Partnership, and all

classes recently enjoyed a 'Dance Day' with Dance Fitness Ireland.

Congratulations also to all our fabulous swimmers who took part in the recent inter-schools swimming gala! Our Junior Classes were delighted to welcome Cois Laoi Productions recently and very much enjoyed their performance of Mamaí Gé. Finally, well done to Fourth Class who led a lovely assembly on Creation.

Tribute to John Kershaw

The funeral of John Kershaw of St Michael's Church, Blackrock took place in January of this year. One parishioner has written, "John was a very caring husband to Elsie and father to Keith, father in-law to Danuta and grandfather to Nina and Philip who he loved so much. John was a dedicated parishioner and worshipped for many years at St. Michael's church. He was a practical man and an excellent craftsman and designer. John made so many things for the church, Baptismal tree which is in St. Lukes church, Cribs and nativity figures for St. Michaels and St. Lukes church. One of his most well know creations was the design and making of lanterns and framework that decorated the church every Christmas. It was a great tribute to John to have them up during his funeral. John was a caring, generous and helpful man. He did a lot of work for the church behind the scenes. He was a great friend and very knowledgeable. Many people

will remember him when he worked as caretaker in Ashton school. He will be greatly missed. John is now at rest in his beloved church of St. Michael's."



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 8th April at 11am. Last month we discussed 'The Boy with the topknot' by Sathnam Sanghera – a wonderful memoir of the authors upbringing in the Asisan community in Wolverhampton - dealing with cultural differences and family mental problems this book was full of wit and honesty and enjoyed by our Bookclub members. Our book for April is 'Charlotte' by Martina Devlin – a fictionalised account of the much loved Charlotte Brontë. 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.

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

CDYC are planning an afternoon at Smugglers Cove in Rosscarbery doing fun activities on Easter Saturday, 19th April . Meeting there at 2pm (TBC). After food we will



head to the Warren Beach to meet Dean Cliff for an Easter Eucharist Service on the beach (everyone is welcome to the beach service) for 6pm. Cost €20, Age 6th class and Secondary School. If you have an interest please contact Hilda Connolly at dyo@corkchurchofireland.com before April 11th to reserve your place and a booking form will be sent to you.

Other events coming up are as follows: As exams are approaching fast and there is a lot of pressure mounting, we are hoping to run a Wellbeing, Stress Free day in Bandon Grammar on the 24th May with guest speaker Ger Rice from

KYSS <https://www.kinsale.ie/2022/02/12/kinsale-youth-support-services/> on hand that day to speak to everyone and to give tips and ideas on how to cope with exam pressure.

St Stephen's Protestant Orphan Society pays out quarterly grants for educational purposes to members of the Diocese who are in financial distress. These grants are €300 per quarter per child/dependant as well as a Christmas bonus. Anyone who's child/dependant attends school or university is eligible. Please contact Rev William if you would like more information and an application pack.

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)

Bandon Grammar School will host their third annual Truck, Tractor & Vintage Run which will be run in conjunction with the Bandon Union of Parishes on Sunday, 27th April. This fundraising will be in aid of St. Michael's Centre, Bandon & St. Fintan's Development Fund.

Easter General Vestries

Holy Trinity Frankfield will hold their Easter Vestry on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm, followed by the Douglas Union of Parishes holding theirs on Thursday 1st May at 7.30pm

On the 5th April from 10am-12pm, there will be a workshop on the **Liloma Project in Sierra Leone** to raise our ongoing awareness and support of the Diocesan Project as chosen by our Bishop. This will be held at St Nicholas House (T12 RP40) where numbers are limited, so please do reply if you would like to attend. The morning will include, firstly a presentation from Andrew Coleman on the work of Christian Aid, secondly Tony Murphy on the Liloma Project where we will link up with the Christian Aid office in Freetown, thirdly Clodagh Yambasu will speak of her experience of the Christian faith as someone who has lived in Freetown and is familiar with the context. here will be an opportunity for discussions around the Liloma Project with time for questions and comments

and how we can continue to support this important project. All members of the parish are welcome to attend.



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 2nd April 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 your child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

Sunday School:

Please note there will be no Sunday school on 13th April due to unavailability of leaders. The next Sunday School will take place on the 8th June.

Baptisms

2 February in St Luke's Church, Douglas – Nina Hannon

2 March in St Luke's Church, Douglas – George Robert John Sweetnam

Funerals

7 January in St Michael's Church, Blackrock – John Kershaw

1 February in St Luke's Church, Douglas – Edna Taylor

5 March in St Luke's Church, Douglas – Henry Crone

10 March in St Michael's Church, Blackrock – Bill Brady

Church Services April, 2025



Wed 2nd April	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.45	Holy Communion	Maryborough NS
Sun. 6th April <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> White	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	9.45	Service of the Word	Passage
	10.00	Service of the Word	Frankfield
	11.15	Service of the Word	Douglas
	11.30	Service of the Word	Blackrock
Wed. 9th April	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
Sun. 13th April <i>Palm Sunday</i> Violet	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	9.45	Morning Prayer	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Morning Prayer	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Wed 16th April	11.00	Holy Communion	Douglas
	7.30pm	Compline	Passage
Maunday Thursday 17th	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Douglas
Good Friday 18th April	2.30 pm	Service of the Word	Frankfield
		followed by hot cross buns	
Sun. 20th April <i>Easter Sunday</i> White	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
Sun. 27th April <i>2nd Sun of Easter</i> White	8.30	Holy Communion	Blackrock
	9.45	Holy Communion	Passage
	10.00	Morning Prayer	Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	Douglas
	11.30	Morning Prayer	Blackrock

Parish Contacts:

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