



THE DUNDALK GROUP OF PARISHES

Dundalk: St Nicholas' Dundalk; St Paul's Heynestown.

Ballymascanlan & Carlingford: St Mary's Ballymascanlan; St Andrew's Rathcor (Bush)

Crossmaglen: Creggan Parish Church

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter a new year and, indeed, a new decade, many people are still searching for gifts in the form of the 'sales'. There are those who push and shove to grab a bargain and even spend a whole night on the street outside the shop to ensure an item is secured for their possession! As the old saying goes, 'a bargain is only a bargain if you need it'.

Liturgically, in early January, we celebrate the coming of the wise men to the manger where the King of Kings lay. This season is known as the Epiphany. The wise men bore gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which all had symbolic meanings for the Messiah. I hope we have enjoyed any gifts we have received over the Christmas period and the excitement of them to last well into the new year. As Christmas marks the coming of the greatest gift of all to humankind, in the life and death of Jesus, we too have gifts to offer to Him.

The first and most important gift is that of our very lives. Out of love, He died for you and me and gave His all for all of us that we could receive and know salvation from sin and be assured of eternal life. God created all of us unique, yet equal, and simply asks that we return our lives in love for Him through Jesus by trusting in Him for everything. We are also all endowed with special gifts to serve Jesus and each other. We are instructed not to keep those gifts but to give them away to the glory of God. They are to be used in the building of His kingdom and they are gifts that we never lose even though we give them away! God's gifts through us continue to be a blessing to others and to us. May this new year be a time for searching how to use those spiritual gifts afresh, and ALL Christians have them, and even find ourselves utilising them in new and exciting ways and ministries. A very happy new year to all.

God bless you

Geoffrey

SELECT VESTRY MEETINGS

There will be a meeting of Dundalk select vestry in St Richards side chapel on **Monday 13th January** at 7.30pm

There will be a meeting of Ballymascanlan/Bush select vestry in Ballymascanlan church hall on **Monday 20th January** at 7.30pm

There will be a meeting of Creggan select vestry in Creggan church hall on **Tuesday 21st January** at 7.30pm

Services - JANUARY

Week commencing 5th

Creggan -	9.30am HC2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am HC2
Bush -	12 noon HC2
Heynestown -	10.00am HC2
Dundalk -	11.00am HC2

Week commencing 12th

Creggan -	9.30am Family Service
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP2
Bush -	12 noon Family Service
Heynestown -	10.00am MP2
Dundalk -	11.00am MP2

Week commencing 19th

Creggan -	9.30am MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP2
Bush -	12 noon MP2
Heynestown -	10.00am MP1
Dundalk -	11.00am Family Service

Week commencing 26th

Creggan -	9.30am HC2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am HC2
Bush -	12 noon HC2
Heynestown -	10.00am HC2
Dundalk -	11.00am HC2

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- Bishop Isesomo and the diocese of North Kivu, D R Congo. Also, Bishop Suheil and the diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East
- Give thanks to God for all that He has done over the last year
- Seeking God's guidance and leading over the next year
- Those who are ill and hospitalised
- Those who are grieving and bereaved
- The homeless and destitute
- Our children and young people

FROM THE REGISTER:

- ♦ The funeral of Mrs Hazel Lait was held in St Marys, Ballymascanlan on 23rd December
- ♦ Fionn Edward Egan was baptised in St Marys, Ballymascanlan on 28th December



May I express many thanks to everyone who was involved in any way with the services over the Christmas season. Thank you to all who decorated the churches in any way, provided refreshments and took part in any of the services.



Sunday school in St Nicholas, Dundalk will resume on 12th January 2020 during the church service. Youth group in Dundalk will resume in February.

Sunday schools in Creggan & St Andrews, Bush will resume with the monthly family service in each church.

All children aged between 4 & 12 are very welcome along for age appropriate learning.



Come and Experience the Living Word

Bible Study

Bible study will recommence on **Thursday 16th and Thursday 30th January at 7.30pm** in St Richards side chapel, Dundalk. Everyone very welcome as we continue to look at deuterio-Isaiah together.

Community Carol Service led by St. Brigids Primary school choir, Glasdrummond, in Creggan Parish Church on Wednesday 4th December 2019.

Well done to all.



CAROLS *by* CANDLELIGHT



St. Nicholas Parish Church
Annual Carols By Candlelight
collected €2200, which was split with two local charities.

Dundalk Homeless Support Group received €1100 in supermarket vouchers and The Birches Dundalk received a cheque of €1100.



DUNDALK HOMELESS SUPPORT GROUP:

Many thanks to all who support the trolley ministry in St Nicholas, Dundalk and for all your ongoing help and prayers.

It was decided that the proceedings of the carols by candlelight service in Dundalk on 18th December would be split between the work of the Birches and Dundalk Homeless Support Group.



Non-perishable items for the trolley ministry are always welcome

and do continue to pray for this invaluable work.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Annual Dinner

The Mothers Union are having their annual dinner on

Wednesday 15th January at 7pm

in the The Spotted Dog, The Longwalk Dundalk.

All ladies of the Parish are very welcome.

Contact M.U. member as soon as possible

If you wish to attend.



the **spotted dog**

**WELLINGTON HALL
DUNDALK**



For bookings and up to date news please visit the website.

Alternatively you can call Colin 086 6085662

www.wellingtonhalldundalk.com