



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 - APRIL 2020

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Safeguarding Trust is the Church of Ireland's policy to safeguard all children sharing in its ministry from all forms of harm and abuse (see www.sq.ireland.anglican.org). Each parish has a panel whose task it is to oversee the implementation of *Safeguarding Trust*. The panel members in the Dundalk Group of Parishes are Rev Geoffrey Walmsley, Ken Donald (Ballymascanlan), Muriel Grills (Bush), Debbie Donaldson (Creggan), Trevor Patterson (Dundalk), and Alvin Coyle (Heynestown). If you experience, or are aware of, any form of child abuse through involvement in parish activities, please contact a member of the panel. Contact details are posted in all churches.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For the first time in my tenure of Dundalk group of parishes and indeed at any time, I find myself penning a few words without all the normal announcements and service plans that you would usually expect in a newsletter.

These are indeed strange and dark days that we find ourselves in and unprecedented in living memory. There are no guarantees and no assurance of a date and time when all can return to our usual way of life. However, even in the midst of extreme difficulty, when we find ourselves socially distancing and self-isolating (these phrases may end up in our dictionaries before long!!), there is an amazing sense of people looking out for each other and strengthening each other in ways that have maybe never been tried so intensely before.

My own work at present is primarily phoning, texting and online streaming as a way of reaching each other pastorally and sharing in worship. This is totally new, on the whole, to me. I love to visit, to meet and to reach out practically in ministry but this must take another shape at present. I am sure you have found many new experiences in connecting with loved ones and others in these days, albeit few of them being easy.

It is lovely to catch up with you on the phone and through texting. It is wonderful to hear your voices and to hear how things are with you. I am so thankful for technology and I thought I might never have said that in such a profound way!! As we 'meet' each Sunday at 11am and Wednesday at 11am online, we are still church because we are the body of Christ worshipping together in common bond regardless of where we are. May I encourage you all to 'tune in' as you can and to hold fast as the body of Christ in these days. For others who cannot access online streaming, feel free at these designated times to join us in prayer and worship in your homes remembering that the Lord is with us all, as His children, in communion together despite circumstance. Services and short biblical studies will continue at these points in time each week and if you know of anyone who will not receive this letter online, do feel free to let others know about it, remembering to obey the parameters our governments have set in place.

May God keep you all safe, healthy and well. Keep close to all guidelines from the state and health services and we will see this through. Pray for others particularly in need and those who are suffering from Coronavirus. Remember those who have lost loved ones because of it and remember our health staff and those in authority at this time.

"casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you" 1 Peter 5:7 ESV

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Geoffrey

How to access all online services:

(copy & paste the below links)



⇒ Pass on the newsletter email address to join our mailing list. dundalkcoinewsletter@gmail.com



⇒ Visit the St. Nicholas' Parish Church website
[https://stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com/
recorded-service-at-11am](https://stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com/recorded-service-at-11am)



⇒ **SUBSCRIBE** to our **youtube** channel
<https://youtu.be/03WmMqrCfgo>



Find us on Facebook ⇒ [https://www.facebook.com/
dundalkgroupogparishes/](https://www.facebook.com/dundalkgroupogparishes/)

Services - APRIL

Following government recommendations, the churches will be temporarily closed for visitors and worshippers until further notice.

During this time services will be live streamed on our Facebook page and St. Nicholas' Parish Church website

Streamed service time 11am Sunday
Reflection on Wednesday 11am