



# 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 - FEBRUARY 2020

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### Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Before the month of February has finished, we shall have embarked upon the season of Lent! The old cliché springs to mind-'Where does the time go?' 26th February marks Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. Also, this month, we celebrate an extra day in the annual calendar. 2020 is a leap year and an opportunity for those born on the 29th February to enjoy a well-deserved birthday, four years in the making!! Traditionally, this date is understood for the ladies to ask the gentlemen's hand in marriage too! No pressure ladies.

Alongside St. Valentine's Day, February is a month to recognize love. There are many forms of love that humanity can experience but only one perfect form is in existence. Its name is 'agape' and can only be found in the being of God. As God is perfect, therefore, His love is perfect. Do you know the best part of all? We can receive this love, experience it for ourselves and it never runs out! It is unconditional, unchanging, omnipresent, unique and eternal. 1 John 4:8 tells us that 'God is Love'. His very essence is made up of this 'agape' love. It is the love that never gives up on you and me, no matter what we have done, said or thought. It is the love that sent God's only Son, Jesus, to earth, to die for you and me. It is the love that took our place upon a cross. Sometimes, we don't dwell long enough upon the truth of that fact or maybe do nothing with it. The bible tells us that we justly deserve our punishment for all that we have done wrong or have omitted to do right. Jesus, out of 'agape' for you and me, substitutes Himself on the cross in our place so that we may know the forgiveness of wrong and enjoy the free gifts of salvation and eternal life. God never stops loving us through all our wrongdoing but wants us to come away from that wrongdoing as it will do us and others no good. He asks simply that we give all our lives to Him. As we do this, we will want to return our love to Him as He first loved us. If we repel His love, He will not stop loving us but we will miss out on the joys, wonders and promises of an eternity that results from receiving God's love.

*God bless you*

*Geoffrey*

## Services - FEBRUARY

### Week commencing 2nd

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

### Week commencing 9th

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

### Week commencing 16th

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

### Week commencing 23rd

Creggan -	9.30am HC2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am HC2
Bush -	12noon 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.
- Those who have been affected by the fires in Australia. Loss of life, home and livelihood
- For the homeless, destitute and disaffected
- Those who are hospitalized, ill, cared for at home or in nursing care
- Our children and young people and their future
- General election on the 8<sup>th</sup> February for Republic of Ireland
- Personal spiritual preparation for the season of Lent
- Pray for a cessation of violence in our communities

### ARCHBISHOP RICHARD



*Archbishop Richard Clarke will be retiring on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February with effect. Please remember him and his family, at this time, in prayer, as he moves into a new chapter in his life. We give thanks for his long and fruitful ministry and especially to his leadership in Armagh diocese. May he have a long and happy retirement.*

## SELECT VESTRY MEETINGS

There will be a meeting of Dundalk select vestry in St Richards side chapel on **Monday 10th February** at 7.30pm



MR DAVID BROWN, Armagh Diocesan Youth & Children Officer will be speaking at the family service in St. Nicholas' Parish Church, Dundalk on Sunday 16th February 2020



## Come and Experience the Living Word Bible Study

Bible study will continue on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in St Richards side chapel, Dundalk.

We are looking at Deutero-Isaiah and everyone is very welcome to come along.

## WELLINGTON HALL DUNDALK



For bookings and up to date news please visit the website.  
Alternatively you can call Colin 086 6085662

[www.wellingtonhalldundalk.com](http://www.wellingtonhalldundalk.com)

### SHOPPERS SERVICE

The next shoppers service will be held in St Nicholas, Dundalk on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon. The church will be open from 11am. If you are around the town and doing a bit of shopping or in the town on another errand, do feel free to pop into the church for the short service (20 mins approx..) around noon. **You will be very welcome.**



For all children aged between 4 and 12 years, there are Sunday schools in St Nicholas, Dundalk, Creggan parish and St Andrews, Bush. In each church, Sunday school operates alongside the Sunday service times where the children are initially present in the service with their parents/guardians and then are led by the teachers to their own space in the church buildings where they can enjoy age appropriate learning and fun. All children aged between 4 and 12 years are very welcome.

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth group in St Nicholas, Dundalk is back in action this month for all young people aged 12 years and above. As in Sunday school, the young people meet alongside the church service time in their own space for teaching, fun and fellowship. All young people aged 12 and above are very welcome.



### TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

The tree of remembrance is present in St Nicholas, Dundalk again this year. If you are in the church at any time, whether for a service or otherwise, do feel free to take a tag and write a prayer upon it for your needs or the needs of others and then tie it on the tree as another way of offering prayer to God. **Tags and pens are available at the position of the tree. The tags will be burned on Ash Wednesday as a symbolic way of collectively offering all the prayers through Christ to the throne of God's grace.**



St Nicholas' NS will be taking part in a Peace IV project with Killowen and Grange Primary Schools in Northern Ireland.

This is a shared education project where children from north and south of the border get to meet, participate in different activities and form new friendships.



Second to Sixth Class are participating in a programme called Sprocket Rocket, a cycling programme where the children learn essential skills by qualified instructors.

**Our Christmas Craft Fayre was a huge success. We raised about €2,020 for school funds. Thank you to all who helped out. Special thanks to Mrs. Gillanders and Sinead O'Donovan for all their hard work.**

### DUNDALK HOMELESS SUPPORT GROUP:

Thank you everybody for the ongoing help with the trolley ministry for the local homeless in Dundalk. Your very kind generosity has helped many people over many months. As this outreach is in constant need, we do encourage you to donate, as you are able, non-perishable items into the trolley in St Nicholas, Dundalk.

**Thank you so much for all your invaluable involvement in this ministry.**



## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers Union will meet on  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm** in  
St Richards side chapel, Dundalk.  
The speaker will be from the RNL.



## Lifeboats



It was great to see so many ladies at the recent dinner in the Spotted Dog restaurant. It was a great evening of good food and fellowship.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** It is hard to believe but the season of Lent is almost upon us. It, of course, begins with Ash Wednesday and there will be a service in St Nicholas, Dundalk on

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** to mark this occasion at **7.30pm.**

*Everyone is very welcome.*

There will be services in each of the churches in the group on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Details will follow soon.

### CLEANERS WANTED

If you have a little time on your hands and would be willing to help to clean St Nicholas church on a rota basis, we would love to hear from you. Please see one of the clergy or a member of the select vestry for further detail.

### MOCE

**Mount Oliver and District C.E. Ltd** has the following vacancies under a DSP Community Employment Project. *Applicants must be in receipt of a social welfare payment for 12 months.*

- ◆ **Care Assistant**, Maria Goretti Foundation, Lordship, Garda vetting applies
- ◆ **Cleaner**, Maria Goretti Foundation, Lordship, Garda vetting applies
- ◆ **Caretaker**, Mount Oliver Convent, Ballymascanlan, Garda vetting applies
- ◆ **2 x Cleaner**, St Frances Nursing Home, Ballymascanlan, Garda vetting applies

For further information  
please contact Una 042 9337958 or 0872579256