



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 - NOVEMBER 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.sg.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,

It is with deep sadness that I compose these last words from me to you for the newsletter. As you may be aware, I have been called to become the next Rector of Milltown parish in the Diocese of Armagh with institution date being the 24th November. My last Sunday with you will be the 15th November. It has been an amazing and rewarding journey these last six and a quarter years with you all. Words could not begin to express how someone could sum up the wonderful time we have had as a family in the Dundalk group of parishes and wider geographical area. Someone might say you could write a book, as these few words will not even scratch the surface of what I would like to convey.

We will miss you all dreadfully but no-one or anything can take away memories or experiences and we will carry those forever. You are a wonderful group of people and I know God has done great things through you and He will continue to do so in the future. I am sure of that. Clergy on the whole are only passing through for a period. You are the church and God will lead and guide you into the next step and phase of His will and mission for you. It is particularly disappointing in our current restrictions that we are not able to say goodbye in a formal setting and, at present, not even in a church service. I hope to formally say farewell in an online service on the 15th November which seems to be the only route open to do so at the moment. Online services and midweek 'meeting around the scriptures' will continue until that date. Thank you all for your encouragement, support and participation in these over the last few months. They have been effective in reaching out to others who were not able to attend church services and many who have no church affiliation also.

In many ways, saying goodbye is not always the end of the road. I would love to think that we may cross paths again perhaps through diocesan events or other social/ecclesiastical occasions. Milltown is not a million miles away and any of you would be very welcome to call anytime you would find yourself in the area. The door is always open. **Geoffrey**

Thank you all once again for everything and may God bless you all richly as you serve Him in life and ministry.

Keep praying, keep reading His word and keep unified. (1 Timothy 6:12).

Coronavirus COVID-19 UPDATE

Our ROI Churches will be closed & Services will be Online.

Watch **LIVE on Facebook** [@dundalkgroupofparishes](https://www.facebook.com/dundalkgroupofparishes)

or visit The Green Church website

www.stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com

All church services in parishes in the Republic of Ireland remain closed throughout November in line with government guidelines.

Online & Services - NOVEMBER

Week commencing 1st

Craggan -	9.30am MP2
ONLINE	11AM MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am CLOSED
Bush -	12noon CLOSED
Heynestown -	10.00am CLOSED
Dundalk -	11.00am CLOSED

Week commencing 8th

Craggan -	9.30am Family Service
ONLINE	11AM MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am CLOSED
Bush -	12noon CLOSED
Heynestown -	10.00am CLOSED
Dundalk -	11.00am CLOSED

Week commencing 15th -

"Geoffrey's Farewell Service"

Craggan -	9.30am MP2
ONLINE	11AM HC2
ONLINE	7.30PM MP2 & PRESENTATION
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am CLOSED
Bush -	12noon CLOSED
Heynestown -	10.00am CLOSED
Dundalk -	11.00am CLOSED

Week commencing 22nd

Craggan -	9.30am MP2
ONLINE	11AM MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am CLOSED
Bush -	12noon CLOSED
Heynestown -	10.00am CLOSED
Dundalk -	11.00am CLOSED

Week commencing 29th

Craggan -	9.30am MP2
ONLINE	11AM MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am CLOSED
Bush -	12noon CLOSED
Heynestown -	10.00am CLOSED
Dundalk -	11.00am CLOSED

Rector's Reflections

Online 'meeting around the scriptures' will continue each week from 11am each Wednesday.

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
- Thanksgiving for the Lord's presence with us and the keeping of His church in these difficult times
- Healing for those with Covid-19, our land and society
- Those in hospital, nursing care and those cared for at home
- Those working on the frontline, particularly the medical fraternity
- For our governments and those making decisions
- Our young people and children, their homes and families. Also schools and all who work in education
- The homeless, unemployed and destitute
- Walmsley family do value prayer for this time of transition
- Pray for God's guidance and keeping in a time of vacancy

FROM THE REGISTER:

- ♦ Molly Sophie McLernon was baptised in St Nicholas, Dundalk on 4th October



YOUTH AND CHILDRENS MINISTRY

During this time of lockdown and restriction, it has been impossible to conduct young peoples and children's ministries in our churches. However, there is access to connection with children and young people's ministries at a diocesan level online if you would like to avail of that. There is a Zoom 'ezine' and a slot titled 'Soul Food' which are available as forms of communicating to young people and children during our cessation of 'hands on' ministry. These can be found on the website www.armagh.anglican.org. They may be helpful.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Crockery, cutlery and household items from the Mothers Union being delivered to the Women's Aid in Dundalk



Here at St Nicholas' NS we've been very busy getting back into the swing of things at school.

Here are some comments from the children in 3rd and 4th Class about how they feel about being back at school.

"I love being back at school because I can see my friends, my teacher and learn."

"I'm happy to be back at school do Maths".

"I like doing the activities especially in PE and Art and writing."

"I feel amazing about being back because I love school."

Here are some pictures of all the fun the children had on the last day before the mid-term break. They have earned a well-deserved break!

