



# 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 2021



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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](http://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 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 Parishioners helping to spread the Gospel.

Because HE (Jesus) was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. Hebrews 2:18. We are all being tested as we wait for HSE updates. Christmas has passed without the presence of members of family and friends who could not visit safely. We are thankful that we were able to make sacrifices to keep others safe. Our online Carol Service as you know was a great success. I thank all those who had a hand in making it such a success. Since last writing there was much debate about managing Christmas services. I regret that our smaller churches had to remain closed because of the numbers who normally attend the Festival services. As it turned out Christmas Eve proved unpopular for whatever reason and we had sufficient space in St Nicholas' to observe protocols. A few days before Christmas we were notified that all churches in the Republic would close on 26<sup>th</sup> January except for private prayer, so the united service, planned for 27<sup>th</sup> December, in St Nicholas' had to be cancelled. The service in Creggan parish church can take place as scheduled on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. There will also be a rural deanery on-line service on 3<sup>rd</sup> of January and some form of on-line services will be arranged for the other Sundays in January. During lockdown we shouldn't discard our diaries. We need to plan for ordinary activities each week: simple things like a special home meal, a favourite walk, a film evening, phoning.... the list goes on. Please pass on ideas to me and to others, preferably by email. I am happy to watch St Nicholas' WhatsApp without comment. Vaccinations are being rolled out as I write, so if we can observe the protocols for another couple of months, we can hope for a new normal minus many things we didn't really need. Our prayers go out to those who lost loved ones, to those who are isolated, to business owners who had to close down, to the people who lost their jobs, and to the young people who missed out on so much of what they would normally do at this stage in their lives.

As I look out of our study window this last morning of 2020 the sun is shining on a light covering of snow I wish you God's blessing for a brighter and healthy new year.

**Richard.**

### Online & Services - JANUARY ROI SERVICES IN JANUARY ALL ONLINE WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS THE RURAL DEANERY

#### Week commencing 3rd

Creggan - 9.30am MP2

ONLINE - 10am Second Sunday of Christmas HC

#### Week commencing 10th

Creggan - 9.30am MP2

ONLINE - 10am First Sunday after Epiphany. MP

#### Week commencing 17th

Creggan - 9.30am HC2

ONLINE - 10am Second Sunday after Epiphany HC

#### Week commencing 24th

Creggan - 9.30am MP2

ONLINE - 10am Third Sunday after Epiphany HC

#### Week commencing 31st

Creggan - 9.30am TBC

*(It was originally a united service of MP in Dundalk)*

ONLINE - 10am Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
**Diocesan service**

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- Bishop Iseemo 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 and other illnesses and conditions at this time.
- Those in hospital, nursing care and those cared for at home
- 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.
- Pray for God's guidance in this time of vacancy.



St. Nicholas Parish Church, The GREEN Church, Dundalk. Annual Carols By Candlelight Service is available to watch anytime. Visit the website.

<https://stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com/annual-carols-by-candlelight>

## 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](mailto:dundalkcoinewsletter@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Visit the St. Nicholas' Parish Church website <https://stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com/recorded-service-at-11am>
- ⇒ **SUBSCRIBE** to our **youtube** channel <https://youtu.be/03WmMqrCfqo>
- ⇒ Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/dundalkgroupogparishes/>



## SELECT VESTRY MEETINGS

Any planned Select Vestry meeting will be confirmed by each Church secretary according to government's guidelines.

## FREEWILL OFFERING

As a response to people enquiring about donations to churches at this difficult time, you may feel, if you are in a position to and would like to, donate to the following bank detail. This can be done online if you have online banking or by visiting the bank.

The account details of  
St Nicholas' Parish Church.

account name:

**Dundalk Select Vestry**

**IBAN:**

IE30 BOFI 9033 6516 1383 46

**BIC:** BOFIE2D

The account details of  
St Marys, Ballymascanlan and St  
Andrews, Bush.

account name:

**Ballymascanlan Rathcor union,**

**IBAN:**

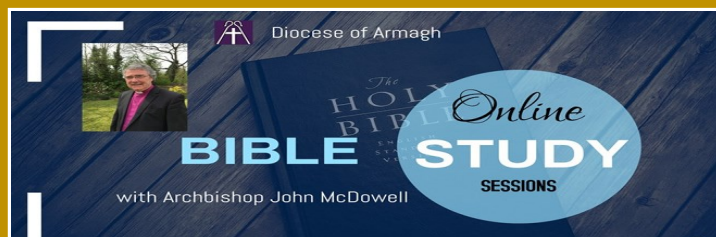
IE95 AIBK 9324 5023 4780 63

**BIC:** AIBKIE2D

(For St. Nicholas Parish Church, Dundalk anyone with late envelopes please send them to the Treasurer)

**NEW Free Will Offering envelopes will be ready for everyone on return to in-Church worship**

Thank you all so much for your patience and consideration concerning these sensitive issues.



Online BIBLE STUDY with Archbishop John McDowell is still available from the GREEN CHURCH website.

<https://stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com/bible-study>

<http://armagh.anglican.org/News/ArchbishopJohnBibleStudies.html>



### ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SCHOOL

December was a busy and fun month for us all. We celebrated St Nicholas' Day. The children heard the story of St Nicholas and wore their Santa hats to spread some Christmas cheer. On 11<sup>th</sup> December we held a Christmas jumper Day in aid of 'Make a Wish Foundation'. We raised about €180.



We celebrated Christmas by performing a nativity play in each of the classes.

*Isabelle Christmas also presented a gift to Rev'd Geoffrey to thank him for his ministry in St Nicholas' National School.*



The tree of remembrance is present in St Nicholas, Dundalk. SEND YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE OF REMEMBRANCE TO THE FOLLOWING [dundalkcoinewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dundalkcoinewsletter@gmail.com) Thank you

**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.**

*Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, yet always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.*