



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 2022

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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 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,

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

January has passed without significant winter storms. Snowdrops and crocuses are greeting the spring early again this year. Covid restrictions were lifted on the weekend of 22nd January and we are not sure if we should be celebrating. The New Zealand government after opening up is enforcing restrictions again. Will we suffer the same fate?

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Tuesday 25th January, at the invitation of Fr. Padraig, PP of Blackrock, we celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with an ecumenical service in St. Oliver's Church in Blackrock. I was pleased with the number of parishioners who made the effort to attend on a cold January night. Our members made up a third of the congregation. The aim of these services is that churches work together to promote commitment to defending human dignity of the poor, the marginalised and the homeless.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY 18 MARCH

At a Zoom meeting with the clergy on Thursday 27th January, the Archbishop said that he would like us to mark the public holiday with a service to acknowledge the lifting of restrictions. He will attend the service, it will be one for the whole of Co. Louth. The themes will be remembering all who have died in loneliness and fear during the pandemic, acknowledgement of the difficulties people have experienced, the extraordinary dedication to duty many have shown, and thanksgiving for coming safely thus far. Further information will be published in next month's Newsletter.

ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT

It seems very early to mention Lent but Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March. We will have a service in St. Nicholas' Church at 7.30 on that evening. Mothering Sunday, when we give thanks for parents, is always on the fourth Sunday in Lent, this year that will be on 27th March. Easter Sunday is 17th April. During Holy Week we will have services each night at 7.30 starting on Monday in Creggan, Tuesday in Bush, Wednesday in Heynestown, and Maundy Thursday in Ballymascanlan. Plans for Good Friday are not yet finalised.

Eternal God you belong to neither culture nor land but are Lord of all. You call us to welcome the stranger in our midst. Help us by your Spirit to live as brothers and sisters welcoming all in your name and living in the justice of your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

God Bless, Richard.

Services - FEBRUARY

Week commencing 6th

The 4th Sunday before LENT

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

Week commencing 13th

The 3rd Sunday before LENT

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

Week commencing 20th

The 2nd Sunday before LENT

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

Week commencing 27th

The 1st Sunday in LENT

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

***Subject to change**

General Easter Vestries

I am planning to have all the General Easter Vestries on the week beginning 24th April as follows:

- Monday 25th April - Creggan**
- Tuesday 26th April - Heynestown**
- Wednesday 27th April - Dundalk**
- Thursday 28th April - Ballymascanlan/Bush.**



Secretaries and Treasurers, please check if you are free on those dates.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- Bishop Iessmo 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.

FREEWILL OFFERING	
<i>The account details of St Nicholas' Parish Church.</i>	<i>The account details of St Marys, Ballymascanlan and St Andrews, Bush.</i>
a/c: Dundalk Select Vestry	a/c: Ballymascanlan Rathcor union.
IBAN: IE30 BOFI 9033 6516 1383 46	IBAN: IE95 AIBK 9324 5023 4780 63
BIC: BOFIE2D	BIC: AIBKIE2D

St. Nicholas Parish Church, Dundalk

A RURAL DEANERY Service with the Archbishop John. (Public Holiday 18th March) TBC

The themes will be remembering all who have died in loneliness and fear during the pandemic, acknowledgement of the difficulties people have experienced, the extraordinary dedication to duty many have shown, and thanksgiving for coming safely thus far. Further information will be published in next month's Newsletter.



Youth, Children's & Family Ministry Support



The Diocese of Armagh with AYAC "Armagh Youth & Children" are hoping to have 2 groups service for families. See Tori for more information.

Saturday 9th April 2022

"Messy Easter" at Armagh Cathedral. An exploration of the Easter story for families with young children. Arts, Crafts, Worships, and the message of hope in knowing Jesus!



Sunday 17th April 2022

Easter Dawn Service. "The Lord is Risen!" at the Argory, Moy 6am TBC



Confirmation

If there are candidates not yet registered for the rural deanery confirmation taking place in St Peter's Church, Drogheda, on 5th June at 11:30 am please register with Joyce, by email. moorejoyce72@gmail.com and please supply the following information:

- ◆ Child's Full name
- ◆ Date of birth
- ◆ Date of baptism (as accurately as you can remember)
- ◆ Place of baptism
- ◆ Parents' /guardians' names
- ◆ Home Address
- ◆ Contact number for at least one parent/guardian
- ◆ Email of parent/guardian

All classes will take place in St Peter's Parish Hall, at 6 pm. They will be conducted by Mr Ian Moore, the Rev'd Dr Iain Jamieson, and Canon Joyce Moore.

DATES OF CLASSES - TUESDAYS 6-7 pm

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.*



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

It seems very early to mention Lent but Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March, begins with Ash Wednesday and there will be a service in St Nicholas, Dundalk on

Wednesday 2nd March to mark this occasion at **7.30pm.**

Everyone is very welcome.

Further information will be published in next month's Newsletter.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON!