



# 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 - DECEMBER 2020

CONTACT DETAILS: Rev. Richard Moore Tel: 041-6851327/+353 86-8936024  
EMAIL: richmoore@yahoo.ie

CONTACT DETAILS for NEWSLETTER: Tori Eveson [dundalkcoinewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dundalkcoinewsletter@gmail.com)



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 Friends working to spread the Gospel,

We give thanks for Geoffrey's six years ministry amongst us. The parishes continued to flourish under his leadership and we will miss his friendly face, chatter and care. Rev'd Sandra and Rev'd Geoffrey were as 'alike' as chalk and cheese and we can pride ourselves that we got on well with both of them.

Alas! the Milltown nominators were drawn to him and he accepted the post offered as rector of another vibrant parish. Our loss is their gain. We pray for him, Christine and family. He will still be in the diocese so some of us will brush shoulders with him from time to time in Armagh.

We hope the Archbishop will call our nominators together soon to do their work in finding a rector for these parishes. In the mean time we will tick over quietly for we have a wonderful set of people in all the parishes, always willing to get involved in parish activities.

What has lockdown done for the church? It is a great disturbance for those of us who have attended church faithfully for many years. Some will find church was just a habit that could easily be broken. I spent a very enjoyable morning on the Cooley mountains on the first favourable day for the venture and it was a Sunday. If church had been an option the opportunity would have passed for this year. Church leaders are not accustomed to performing for television. A congregation is needed to draw the best out of us. The online service can easily become a self-enhancing performance or ego-trip. Think of the serious loss of power when the viewer can fast forward or simply press the off button! Then there are those many faithful worshippers who haven't the equipment or the technical skills to take part. Fortunately there are many young people willing to help older relatives. For me, having watched services from across the diocese, I found myself assessing the service instead of attending to an act of worship. Was the sermon taking up too much of the short service? How could we judge the parts of the service that time demanded had to be omitted? Were bible readings left out to accommodate personal choices?

Covid-19 is calling the tune so it is up to us to pray and be positive.

Thessalonians 5:11 from the Epistle for 15<sup>th</sup> November reads:

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*

Matthew 25 :14-30 is the gospel for that day and it urges us to use our talents to the best of our ability. What better advice could we get at the start of the vacancy?

The churches are allowed to open for Christmas with restrictions for numbers but we will not be able to have services in our smaller churches because of the greater numbers who worship with us on festival occasions.

Farewell friend and colleague Geoffrey. We had a good 6 years with you at the helm, you will be missed. As you take up your new position, you know psalm 121: 5-8

*The Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.*

The Lord will keep you from all harm- He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.

Let us memorise and recite these words often as we journey onwards.

**God bless,**

**Richard.**

### Coronavirus COVID-19 UPDATE

## As from the 6th December All ROI Churches are back Open for Sunday Services.

(Creggan Parish Church is Closed until 11th December due to NI Covid-19 guidelines)

*Online services will continue for the Month of December on Facebook, You Tube & The Green Church website*



**11am St Nicholas' Church, Dundalk**

**Spiritual Holy Communion**

## Online & Services - DECEMBER

### Week commencing 6th

Creggan -	9.30 am Closed - ONLINE
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP visiting Preacher
Bush -	12noon MP visiting Preacher
Heynestown -	10.00am HC Spiritual
Dundalk -	11.00am HC Spiritual

### Week commencing 13th

Creggan -	9.30 am HC Spiritual
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am HC Spiritual
Bush -	12noon HC Spiritual
Heynestown -	10.00am MP visiting Preacher
Dundalk -	11.00am MP visiting Preacher

### Week commencing 20th

Creggan -	9.30 am MP visiting Preacher
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP visiting Preacher
Bush -	12noon MP visiting Preacher
Heynestown -	10.00am HC Spiritual
Dundalk -	11.00am HC Spiritual

### Week commencing 27th

Creggan -	9.30am Closed
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am Closed
Bush -	12noon Closed
Heynestown -	10.00am Closed
Dundalk -	11.00am United MP2

*Online services will continue for the Month of December on Facebook, You Tube & The Green Church website*

Come and Experience the Living Word  
**Bible Study**

Continuing on with the link of **"Online Bible Study sessions"** with Archbishop John McDowell on Wednesday at 11am.

Bible Studies on St Paul's first letter to the Thesalonians.  
<http://armagh.anglican.org/News/ArchbishopJohnBibleStudies.html>

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Wishing all the members of the Mothers' Union and friends Very Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Will keep in touch as to when meetings can resume.

**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
- 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.
- Pray for God's guidance in this time of vacancy.
- Those who are grieving and others who find Christmas difficult.

**ST. NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH  
(THE GREEN CHURCH)**

*Virtual* **CAROLS by  
CANDLELIGHT**

Listen, read and Sing along to  
Christmas readings and Carols

Tuesday 22nd DECEMBER at 7.30pm  
LIVE on Facebook & YouTube



[www.stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com](http://www.stnicholas-greenchurchdundalk.com)



**ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SCHOOL**

St Nicholas' NS celebrated Science week during November. All our classes were busy investigating different experiments.

See what fun we had in the pictures below.



Here at St Nicholas we'd like to share a special thank you to Reverend Geoffrey who will be greatly missed. Below are some messages from pupils in the senior classes:

*Thank you Reverend Geoffrey for everything you did especially for all the fun games.*

*Thank you for always making everyone feel welcome.*

*Thank you for being at assemblies, it was always the best part of the day! (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class)*

*Thank you! I hope you can come back one day so we can see you again.*

*I hope you come visit again, you always put a smile on everyone's face. (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class)*

*I liked Reverend Geoffrey because he was always fun at Assembly. He was very friendly. He may be going somewhere else but he won't be forgotten.*

*The thing I liked about Reverend Geoffrey was that he also taught us something new from the Bible about Jesus. He taught us that Jesus loves us so much. I also loved the summer camp he held every year. (6<sup>th</sup> Class)*

**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/03WmMqrCfgo>
- ⇒ Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/dundalkgroupoparishes/>

