



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 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,

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. The prophesy from Isaiah 9:6 has been fulfilled and at this time of year we celebrate that event. Our celebrations started with carol services in all our churches during morning service except the last one: Carols by Candlelight in St Nicholas' Church on Tuesday 21st December. It was a wonderful occasion with the church filled to covid-safe capacity. The collection that night was earmarked for two local charities: Women's Aid and the Simon Community each received €500. I wish to thank Evelyn and Sharon, all members of the choir and those who helped by decorating the church and stewarding on the night.

We had joy but we also had sorrow; on 16th December, the earthly remains of Maureen Matthews were laid to rest in the graveyard of St Mary's Church, Ardee following her funeral service in St Nicholas' church. I am grateful to the graveyard committee for facilitating the burial, having the church open and the bell rung.

With the rapid spread of the omicron variant of covid, many people were disappointed because Christmas arrangements had to be changed. Despite their disappointment, so many families have behaved responsibly, taking antigen or PCR tests before finally committing to the family gathering, arranging the gathering outdoors or simply postponing their gathering until finer weather.

In this Newsletter you will see some more outdoor pictures of people planting trees. The 'Bugs Bees and Native Trees' project was completed this month and thank you to the young people and their parents who helped at the plantings. Thank you, to David Brown in Armagh and Tori in our parochial group, for initiating and co-ordinating the project.

With the knowledge of traditional attendances at the Christmas services in our smaller churches we were able to estimate that we could hold services safely and within government guidelines, so unlike last year, we had Christmas services in all the churches. We thank Revd Christine McCrea who conducted the services in Ballymascanlan and Bush. Thanks also to Lord Bellew for his help to keep the normal pattern of services in all our churches and to Rita for all she does.

I apologise to at least 2 families for a time error printed in the Newsletter for the united service on 26th December. This was my fault, as I gave the wrong time to Tori.

The Dundalk Select Vestry looks forward to completing the sale of the former rectory early in the new year. They will then be in a position to seek a new house to replace it.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9

God Bless and a Happy New Year, Richard.

Services - JANUARY

Week commencing 2nd

The 2nd Sunday of Christmas

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

Week commencing 9th

The 1st Sunday after Epiphany

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

Week commencing 16th

The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

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

Week commencing 23rd

The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Creggan -	8.00pm
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am
Bush -	12 noon
Heynestown -	10.00am
Dundalk -	11.00am

Week commencing 30th

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Creggan -	8.00pm CLOSED
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am CLOSED
Bush -	12 noon CLOSED
Heynestown -	10.00am CLOSED
Dundalk -	11.00am United Service

****Subject to change***

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Wishing the members and friends of the Mothers' Union a Happy New Year for 2022. Will let you know of future events or meetings during the coming months. Gillian.

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.

FROM THE REGISTER

- The funeral of Mrs Mairin Matthews was held in St Nicholas, Dundalk 16th December 2021

FREEWILL OFFERING

<p><i>The account details of St Nicholas' Parish Church.</i></p> <p>a/c: Dundalk Select Vestry IBAN: IE30 BOFI 9033 6516 1383 46 BIC: BOFIE2D</p>	<p><i>The account details of St Marys, Ballymascanlan and St Andrews, Bush.</i></p> <p>a/c: Ballymascanlan Rathcor union, IBAN: IE95 AIBK 9324 5023 4780 63 BIC: AIBKIE2D</p>
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Confirmations rotate between Dundalk and Drogheda The Archbishop has given us a date for Confirmation: **Sunday 5th June at 11:30 in St. Peter's Church.**

We plan to start in St Peter's Parish Hall on 1st March at 6pm CONFIRMATION CLASSES: TUESDAYS 6-7 pm on 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 MARCH and 3, 10, 17, 24 MAY REHEARSAL IN CHURCH TUESDAY 31 MAY 6-7 pm ALL ABOVE DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Classes will be conducted by the rector, Ian Moore (DGS Chaplain) and Joyce. We are still accepting registration for the classes. Please register with Joyce.

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	



ST. NICHOLAS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

St Nicholas' NS had a very busy December. We had lots of fun to help spread some Christmas cheer.

Congratulations are in order for two pupils who won Art competitions ran by Dundalk Lions Club and Amnesty International.



Some of our senior pupils with food collected for our charity fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Third Class decorated cupcakes as a Christmas treat.

Christmas jumper Day!



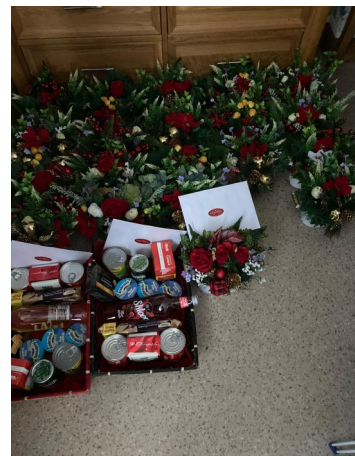
Creggan Parish Church

A special Well done and Thanks for the Creggan Parish Church they had two outreaches for the month of December.

First one is a Children's Mission

A lady sent a £100 donation cheque to use for The Glory of God and some parishioners made up some gifts which are based around the candy cane.

Secondly is a mission outreach to bereaved, lonely or vulnerable folk A small flower arrangement plus a letter of hope. All praise to Mighty God



Bugs, Bees and Native Trees initiative

Following on from the tree planting initiative 'BUGS, BEES AND NATIVE TREES' at **St. Nicholas Parish Church (The Green Church)** back in November on an overcast Saturday in December the Rev. Richard Moore with the help from Ms Tori Eveson and many more parishioners took to **St. Mary's Church Ballymascanlan, St. Andrew's Church Rathcor Bush, St. Paul's Church Heynestown Creggan Parish Church Crossmaglen.**

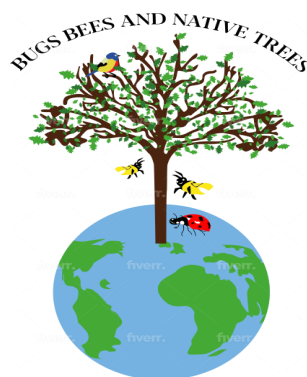
The 'Bugs, Bees and Native Trees' project continue planting three trees in each Church grounds.

The Diocese of Armagh, the "Bugs, Bees and Native trees" project and Christian Aid (Ireland) have teamed up to plant local species of trees across Parishes supporting children in being more aware of better protecting God's gift of creation, locally and globally.

Ms Tori Eveson of St. Nicholas Parish Church who is committee member of the AYAC (Armagh Youth and Children) in the Diocese of Armagh organized some members of the church from Sunday school, Mothers' Union and the church choir, all helped plant trees and shrubs within the church yard which is part of the "Bugs, Bees and Native Trees" initiative.

The Bugs, Bees and Native Trees, is to support young people and concerned citizens on the island of Ireland to address issues of the environment, biodiversity and climate change through tree planting and environmental community initiatives.

Tori registered all five churches within the Dundalk Group of Parishes for this project and all trees are linked to the website www.bugsbeesandnativetrees.com/projects and the aim is to cover the Island of Ireland with newly planted trees. Our trees are all numbered with a code which is also linked to the site.



St. Nicholas Parish Church – BBNT36

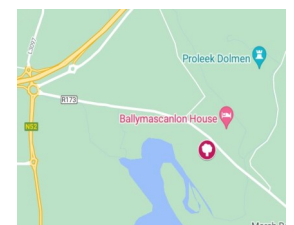
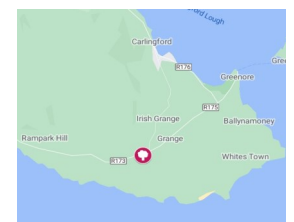
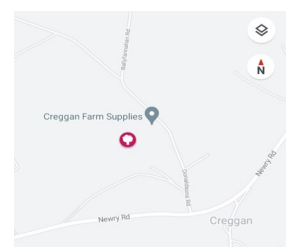
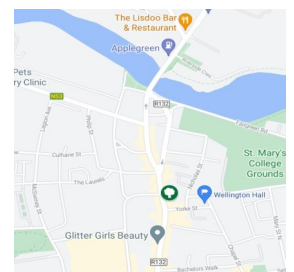
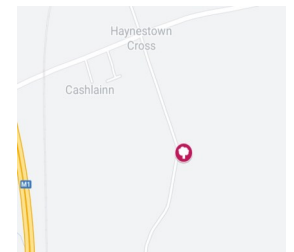
St. Mary's Church, Ballymascanlan – BBNT32

St. Andrew's Church, Rathcor Bush – BBNT32

St. Paul's Church, Heynestown – BBNT32

Creggan Parish Church, Creggan – BBNT32

Bugs, Bees and Native Trees initiative



BUGS, BEES AND NATIVE TREES

(A tree planting initiative for Sunday Schools)

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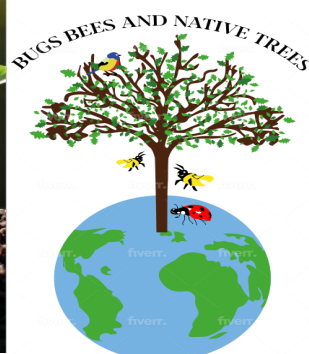
Sunday Schools and Parishes are invited to take part in your own tree planting initiative...

10am to 12noon, 13th Nov 2021

To register your tree planting event and to receive free native saplings, please click link below
<https://bugsbeesandnativetrees.com/#registration-section>

An information pack and Christian Aid resources for Sunday Schools in relation to this project can be found at...
www.armagh.anglican.org





St. Nicholas Parish Church – BBNT36

St. Mary's Church, Ballymascanlan – BBNT32

St. Andrew's Church, Rathcor Bush – BBNT32

St. Paul's Church, Heynestown – BBNT32

Creggan Parish Church, Creggan – BBNT32