



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 - APRIL 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). 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.

As we say good-bye to March and move into April, we look forward to longer brighter days. If it is still not safe to travel we will enjoy outdoor places close to home. Churches in Northern Ireland may open though this is not obligatory. Online services will continue for some time even if we are allowed to open, when regulations change after 5th April. I am looking forward to getting back to church but it is understandable that many are nervous about congregating.

Sadly, since I last wrote, we had three funerals: Adele Gereluk Gray, Oliver McGeeown and Jim Grills. On your behalf I offer condolences to their families and friends

Funerals are always sad, but these were particularly difficult because of restrictions on numbers in churches, graveyards and people's homes.

I offer up a prayer for those mourning loved ones:

As we rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we commend to your keeping those who have lost a loved one. Give them peace, comfort and healing in the knowledge that nothing can separate them from your love in Jesus.

The Easter message is one of hope for all of us. Jesus rose again and ascended to prepare a place for all who follow him. Christians are warned against judging others so it is not for me to interpret the scripture so as to state that other denominations or faiths can have no hope of eternal life, or that a loving God would subject people to eternal pain.

When I read that Easter story in St John 20, I have a vision of a woman walking from her home to the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid. She was sad, she was nervous. What a surprise to find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. She jumped to the conclusion that his body had been taken away. She ran with her tragic news to tell Peter. Peter and John ran to verify her story. They went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths where the body had lain. They remembered what Jesus had said and believed that he was risen. Mary stood weeping at the tomb until her sorrow was turned to joy when Jesus spoke to her. Her next journey was one of rejoicing as she hurried to spread the good news.

I pray that God our Father will enable all the people of the world to join in a song of thanksgiving for the great love he has shown us in Jesus Christ our Lord, risen from the dead. May our lives echo his praise now and always. Amen

I wish you all a happy and Holy Easter.

May God bless us all,

Richard.

Online & Services - APRIL

ROI SERVICES IN MARCH ALL ONLINE WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS THE RURAL DEANERY

Week commencing 4th—EASTER SUNDAY

Creggan - 9.30am - HC2
ONLINE - 10am - HC2

Week commencing 11th

Creggan - 9.30am - MP2
ONLINE - 10am - HC2

Week commencing 18th

Creggan - 9.30am - MP2
ONLINE - 10am - MP2

Week commencing 25th

Creggan - 9.30am - MP2
ONLINE - 10am - MP2

If there are parishioners who are willing to read and record parts of the readings or prayers, *please let Richard know. Tel: 086-8936024/042-9321402/041-6851327 Email: richwmoore@yahoo.ie*

HOLY WEEK ONLINE SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Evening service of Holy Communion.

Maundy (mandatum = a command) Thursday is the day we commemorate the first Last Supper, when Jesus gathered his disciples for the last time, broke bread and shared wine with them and commanded them to love one another.

Good Friday Evening Service for Good Friday, available from 3 pm on that day.

The Way of the Cross, which traditionally takes place through the streets of Drogheda, will be online. St Peter's has been represented by Ms Rhona McKay and Ms Hazel O'Donoghue. Karen Campbell and Pauline Collins (Drogheda Arts) are facilitating a performance of Haydn's 'Seven Last Words'. This will be recorded in St Peter's and go online on Good Friday.



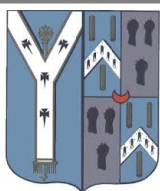
The Rev'd Iain is planning some more midweek Zoom Holy Communion services, to begin after Easter.

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.

ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SCHOOL

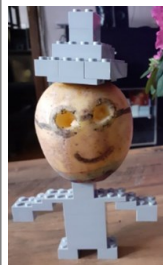
On 4th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children dressed up as their favourite book characters. Some children dressed up for school while others engaging in Home learning dressed up for their class Zoom. We held a school wide competition whereby the children had to design a book



character using a potato. Ms Gaynor's class who were back at school designed a book token, participated in a book quiz and went on a book hunt in the yard.



Have a look at some of the fun below!



EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETINGS

Church Rules on Vestry Meetings demand that a notice including two Sundays be given. If regulations allow us to assemble in larger numbers, we propose to have Easter General Vestry meetings at 7:30pm in: *(subject to government guidelines)*

BALLYMASCANLAN/BUSH on Tuesday 13 April

DUNDALK on Wednesday 14 April

HEYNESTOWN on Thursday 15 April

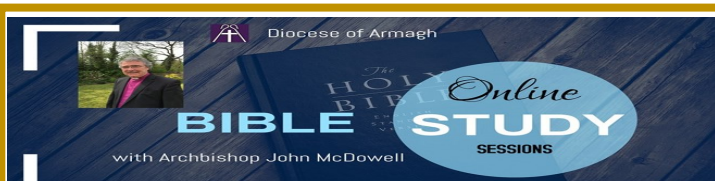
CREGGAN on Sunday 18 April (after church service)

If this is not possible, meetings will be deferred as the Constitution allows. If in any doubt, please check that the meeting is going ahead either with the secretary or with Richard.

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
- ⇒ 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/>



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>