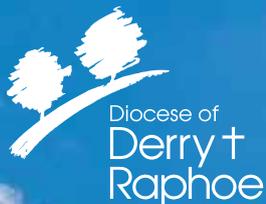


Issue 68 / Easter 2022

n:vision

Transforming Community, Radiating Christ



The Journey continues...

Armchair Christmas Quiz

Many thanks to the many Diocesan Magazines which supported our Annual Armchair Christmas Quiz.

Entries were up this year, nearly 300, with about 85% correct! Thanks to the generosity of so many people we made over €2100 once again. There was a great spread of entries, from all corners of the Island, 1 from UK, and 1 from the US. The prize winners were spread from West Cork, to Wexford to UK! The proceeds, as usual go to two charities, Christian Aid, and Bishop's Appeal. These are both very worthwhile charities, in which all of the money raised goes to where it is needed.

ANSWERS:

1. Allow All:
2. Marroween!
3. Inflated relations!
4. Bone Centre:
5. Wise man:
6. Rowan Atkinson Mr.
7. Red in a rush?
8. Could be Chilli, or not!
9. Shoot from EU City
10. Coloured Brassica:
11. 1000 Beers?
12. Well Worn Track:
13. Sounds like it waits for no man:
14. Rhymes with Jerkin
15. Compress:
16. Scandinavian?
17. Lady of
18. Money made here:
19. Sugary Crop:
20. Vehicle decay:
21. Could be cool as this:
22. Our Lady's flower?

LETTUCE
COURGETTE
PUMPKIN
MARROW
SAGE
BEAN
SCARLET RUNNER
PEPPER
BRUSSELS SPROUT
RED CABBAGE
KALE
BEETROOT
THYME
GHERKIN
SQUASH
SWEDE
SHALLOT
MINT
SWEETCORN
CARROT
CUCUMBER
ROSEMARY

Winners:

**1st: Ann Bryan
BallinascCarthy, Co. Cork**

**2nd: Lilian Webb
Naas, Co. Kildare**

**3rd: Betty Delahunt
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary**

**4th: Ida Scanlon
Wellingtonbridge, Co. Wexford**

Also Rans:

**Olive Kenny, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.
Gordon Birch, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.
Very Revd. George Hilliard, Norfolk,
England. (Thank you George for
contributing your winnings to the
charities.)**

The Quiz was much easier this year, as 85% correct answers would testify! 3 Questions that people had difficulty with were: Inflated relations: PUMPKIN; 1000 beers: KALE and Sugary Crop: SWEETCORN.

Answers!

Editor...



?
?

Rev Canon Katie McAteer, the Editor
E: kmcateer51@gmail.com

Paul Whittaker

Our sincere thanks are due to Paul Whittaker who has edited the parish notes for the last 14 years - yes, that's right, 14 years! That's 54 issues and, well we haven't had time to count how many paragraphs of notes! Paul has been conscientious and patient in his dealings with the Editor, the graphic designer and all the clergy. Sometimes he has had a lot to put up with! We want to thank Paul sincerely for the work he has done and wish him every blessing for the future. Thank you Paul. Paul McFadden will let the clergy know in May when the next deadline is and who will be taking over from Paul. He will let you have the correct email address for your contributions.

Katie and Chris

In this issue...



- 04 BIBLE COMMENTARY
- 05 BISHOP ANDREW WRITES...
- 06 NO LESSER A CHRISTIAN
- 07 BOOK REVIEW: SACRED EARTH, SACRED SOUL
- 08 NEXTDOOR
- 09 CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF...
- 10 THE FULLNESS OF THE EMPTY TOMB
- 11 LONELINESS
- 12 ON YER BIKE!
- 13 WALLED CITY PASSION
- 14 DIGGING UP THE RECTORY GARDEN
- 16 BOOK REVIEW: RESILIENT DISCIPLES
- 17 RECOVERY JOURNEY
- 18 OUR MAD LIFE
- 20 DRY UPDATE
- 21 FIRST AID FOR MENTAL HEALTH
- 22 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PRISON STAFF
- 23 ST MURA'S CROSS
- 26 THE JOURNEY DOWN UNDER
- 28 DIOCESAN MANOEUVRES*
- 30 BY SEA AND BY LAND
- 63 AND FINALLY...

*Further diocesan moves can be found on diocesan website: www.derryandraphoe.org

Jesus is alive and stands with us!

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him". At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20 vs 13-16

These verses come in the midst of a confusing, bewildering, terrifying time for Jesus' followers who had to gather behind locked doors "for fear of the Jewish leaders". (John 20v19).

When the disciples were with Jesus, he was a revolutionary figure who broke down boundaries left, right and centre. He called out the religious leaders for their hypocrisy; treated women and children with respect; spent time with sinners and those society rejected; and attracted crowds of people

wherever he went. He healed the sick, cast out demons and even raised the dead. So when their world crashed and Jesus, their charismatic leader was crucified, they were understandably left reeling. Should they have given up jobs and travelled with him? Should they have invested time, effort, finances, hope for a better world in him? When the crash hit they were left holding on to feelings of confusion, fear, doubt and anxiety.

Let's consider Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus. Standing right before her as she struggled with grief and despair was Jesus Himself but she just doesn't realise it's Him. Can we relate to that? When our disaster strikes and our world falls apart, and it will, are we so focussed on the circumstances in which we find ourselves and overwhelmed by our feelings that we do not see that Jesus is standing right there with us and offering us words of life and hope?

Look what happens next. As Mary gets more worked up about the situation and tries to find solutions, Jesus simply says her name...

.."Mary". In that instant, she stops and immediately recognises who is before her. For Jesus knows her personally, intimately and calls her by name. We are reminded of the verse in Isaiah 43 v1, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine".

When we feel consumed by our circumstances or think we can sort things out ourselves, let's, like Mary, stop, take a breath, focus on who it is who stands with us and not the problem before us. Be reminded of our identity as a child of God, and be reassured by the presence and love of our resurrected Saviour who has defeated death and allowed the Holy Spirit to fill us with peace and hope beyond whatever our situation may be. Be encouraged today. We are not alone. Jesus is alive and stands with us!

By Heather Forster

Bishop Andrew writes...

Dear friends,

'Thank you' are the most important words that I want to say to you in this letter. As we move into a different phase of the pandemic, I want to thank each and every one of you, personally, for supporting your parish through such a difficult time.

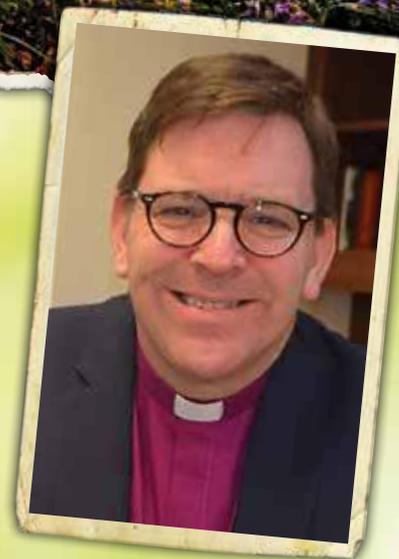
You have all 'done your bit' to ensure that the mitigations we put in place protected fellow parishioners and made our churches safe places in which to worship God. So, thank you.

Over the next weeks and months, we will see a gradual and cautious return to a more customary pattern of worship. However, a careful balance needs to be struck. We should be thankful that some of the difficulties of the last two years are, and hopefully will remain, behind us; but we must bear in mind those among us who still feel vulnerable, and ensure that they don't lose confidence in attending church.

Spring is a beautiful time of year. It speaks to us of new life and new hope, as we see our gardens springing back to life again after the trials of winter. In the midst of this seasonal beauty, we will celebrate the resounding hope discovered by the followers of Jesus in another garden over two thousand years ago. Joseph of Arimathea's rock tomb was empty; the cross couldn't defeat Jesus; and the grave couldn't hold him. We, like countless numbers of his followers down through the centuries, celebrate the truth that Jesus - in all the splendour of his resurrection - is victorious over uncertainty, hurt, fear, pain and death.

We live in incredibly challenging times, for ourselves as individuals, for our parishes and for wider society. Psalm 11:3 asks the question: 'When the foundations shake, what will the righteous do?'

Throughout the pandemic, the phrase, 'We are people of faith not people of fear' has



been at the forefront of my mind. As we look to the future and seek to rebuild, renew and re-energise our parishes, we will find that the only way to do that is by renewing our trust in the Risen Lord. As we commit ourselves into his care, let us remain open to his prompting and leading. Yes, the challenges are great, but our God is even greater!

+Andrew Derry & Raphoe

No Lesser a Christian...

By Andrew Brooking



To declare to the world "I suffer from poor mental health" is one of the scariest things anyone could do. How will people react? Will I get that promotion? Will I be able to lead in church? Am I a lesser Christian?

I suffer from depression and I know these thoughts all too well. Looking back at my life, I see it has been with me well before I can remember. It's only in adulthood that I decided to take action and find out what is going on in my brain as things were clearly not right.

I was once rebuked by a boss that I couldn't have depression because I was always cheerful. Although harmful at the time, that is where our faith comes in. Our identity is not in our mental well-being, but in our love of Jesus Christ. Displaying a fruit of the Spirit shows our broken world that God is far greater than any illness, and is with us even when we're at our most vulnerable. This display of God's power in us isn't something that is forced, or made up, but something the outside world witnesses while our inside self is crumbling with thoughts of 'you're useless and worthless'.

Within Scripture we read how God has helped those with poor mental health. Elijah wanted to end his life, but God gave him food for energy to live another day.

While Jonah was feeling low, God grew a vine around him to 'ease his discomfort', as though God was wrapping His arms around him. Moses felt weak, but God provided two supportive friends just at the right time.

Jesus couldn't avoid stress. While His soul was overwhelmed with sorrow in Gethsemane, He asked His disciples to keep watch over Him, but they fell asleep. This can remind us as Church, to be awake and see that there are people suffering all the time. We often confess that we are sorry for the things we have failed to do. Failing to stay awake and walk with our brothers and sisters who struggle with poor mental health is something on which we all need to reflect.

Telling the world you're struggling should not be scary even though it is. How often are we reminded to fear not? But fear gets in the way of talking about how we feel (especially for us men). Fear even prevents us approaching others who are struggling. Research suggests that at least 1 in 4 of us will suffer at some point in our lives, but in truth we will all have mental health struggles. Church leaders are far from exempt, and if they're struggling we need to support them just like Moses' friends.

Let us be a Church that provides food for the anxious, just as God provided for Elijah.



Let us become the vine that wraps arms around those suffering. Let us not fall asleep like the disciples. The Church of Ireland, through MindMatters, wants to address mental health within our communities and is taking the plight of so many of us seriously. It's now time to talk and remember if you're suffering, you are no lesser a Christian and you're definitely not alone.

Editor's note:

MindMatters COI is a project to raise awareness of, and respond to, the mental health needs of communities across the island of Ireland. It aspires to transform how we understand attitudes towards, and responses to mental health within the Church of Ireland and the wider community, through gathering evidence and looking at how we can promote good mental health over the longer term. The project is chaired by Bishop Pat Storey.

SACRED EARTH, SACRED SOUL:

Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World

By John Philip Newell (HarperCollinsPublishers ISBN: 9780008466336)

An offering of Celtic spirituality and intuition to heal our communities and world.

Book Review by Jon M. Sweeney

We have been following the work of John Philip Newell for years. He's the former Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland and founder of The School of Earth and Soul.

Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul may be his most important book yet. Newell is not simply introducing an ancient spiritual path but also showing its relevance to this time in our lives and this moment in history. The opening pages reveal this, as he discusses the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements, the climate crisis that envelopes us, and the abuse of those who are of another nation, or race, or sexual orientation. He says that in every instance sacredness is being forgotten, and recovery of what is sacred is what is at stake. Somewhere deep down, Newell writes, we know what is sacred and how to protect it. "The Celtic spiritual tradition is one that has long emphasized an awareness of the sacred essence of all things." But, "The problem is that we keep going back to sleep."

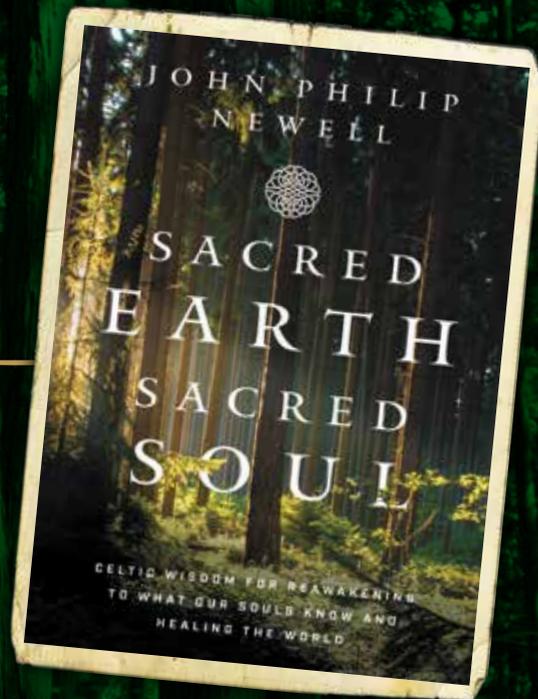
Newell realizes how appropriate Celtic spirituality is for this era when most of the other Western traditions are waning, groaning from an emphasis on doctrine and beliefs. The Celtic path, in contrast, "at its core is the conviction that we essentially need to keep listening to what our soul already knows." He goes on to show how a Celtic way of seeing and being can be accessed by anyone.

History of the Celts and Celtic civilization follows. Celtic peoples were spread all over Europe — not only in the northwest part of Europe, which we often assume — throughout the time of what was also the Roman Empire. In fact, the Romans and their temple worship had trouble contemplating Celtic ways 2,000 years ago. Why do they inhabit forests and mountains, rather than create for their gods temples of gold?

In each of the chapters, Celtic teachers are shown to have often been at odds with their co-religionists in Western traditions in ways that reveal them now to have been prophets, ahead of their time. The Catholic Jesuit priest and scientist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, for instance:

"But little did the Vatican know what the East would do to this Gallic prophet of earth's sacredness. In China he began to speak not only about the sacredness of matter, but also the sacredness of the feminine. The 'fragrance of the feminine, as he called it, or 'the world's attractive power,' is that dimension deep within us and deep within the matter of the universe that invites union."

But history doesn't dominate Newell's book. Spiritual teaching and practices, do. Over nine chapters, he invites the reader to enter the Celtic way through the Sacred



Soul; Sacred Feminine; Sacred Flow; Sacred Song; Sacred Imagination; Sacred Earth; Sacred Matter; Sacred Compassion; and Sacred Journey. Each chapter introduces an important Celtic wisdom practitioner and these range from St. Brigid of Kildare in the early sixth century to the contemporary poet and writer Kenneth White, born in Scotland in 1936.

Spiritual practice, including words of awareness and a prayer of awareness, concludes each chapter.

Jon's review also appears on:
www.spiritualityandpractice.com

NEXTDOOR CHIEF SARAH FRIAR

NEXTDOOR CHIEF SARAH FRIAR: I GREW UP WITH BOMBS, SO I DON'T WANT TO SPREAD HATE. THE BOSS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD APP AIMS TO SUCCEED WHERE SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS FAIL - BY BEING KIND...

SARAH, WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

I grew up in rural Northern Ireland, in the small village of Sion Mills. Despite the Troubles, Sion Mills had a huge sense of community and my parents were in the thick of it. My mum was the local district nurse and my dad the personnel manager of the local mill. They were always helping neighbours. And we experienced help from our neighbours too. "After a bomb explosion I remember our neighbours coming in once we were allowed back into our house, and all of the windows at the back were blown in. And they were the people bringing the plywood round to board them up for the night,"

From Sion Mills and Strabane Grammar School, I took a year off working for Arthur Andersen, (an accounting company) which started a love of business alongside science. At the end of my year off I backpacked for four months through Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Australia. Backpacking taught me to listen to my gut, and take educated risks. One of my favourite experiences was diving off the coast of Cairns experiencing the wonder of the Great Barrier Reef. I returned to the UK to study engineering at Oxford. During my study I interned on a goldmine in Obuasi, Ghana.

After college, I joined McKinsey, (a management consulting company) then did an MBA at Stanford and then worked at Goldman Sachs for over a decade. I did not pursue engineering; it didn't feel like a career where I could belong. My experience was that it was too male dominated but that lit a flame that has subsequently burned a lot brighter - to help create environments that are much more welcoming to everyone regardless of gender, race, religion etc. At McKinsey I worked in South Africa right after apartheid ended. That really showed me up close how communities can heal.

Nextdoor is all about connecting neighbours, here's our vision.

NEXTDOOR IS LEADING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RESURGENCE

We begin with our purpose - to cultivate a kinder world where everyone has a neighbourhood to rely on. How do we make this happen? Through building real-world connections with those nearby - neighbours, local businesses, and public services. This means real people, no anonymity. We help and encourage people to take online conversations offline and into the real world. A recent college grad who's in a new city, a mum who wants to connect with a mum's group, an empty nester who wants to find new friends. Beyond community-building we are a high utility platform, the place to get trusted information, find the best plumber or best local coffee, and give and get help from fellow neighbours. The UK is embracing community spirit as one of Nextdoor's fastest growing markets, increasing by almost 6 times in the last 3 years.

Kerry Lynn from Ballynafeigh was announced as one of the Neighbours of the Year 2021 following her incredible work lifting community projects off the ground. Kerry became part of 'Open Ormeau' with the mission to create more space in the community to encourage safer gathering and to allow local cafes and pubs to operate more safely. At one point Kerry was spearheading over 200 volunteers and through Nextdoor she organized a series of events to bring families together at Halloween, Christmas and last summer 'Ballynafest' - a festival of music and entertainment for families. On the award win, Kerry Lynn said, "It's lovely to win, but at the same time my hope is that anyone who reads about my story is also inspired to reach out to their neighbors



or community to make some connections. It's really important for our well-being, and whilst it can be quite daunting, the rewards are huge if you take those first few steps. You'll never know what fabulous people live just up the road from you, who are also super keen to work on the same thing that you are, unless you reach out."

Mental stress and inactivity is a growing problem all over the world. How do I find time to take care of my body and mind?

If you want to be in good physical shape, you have to exercise regularly - every week, multiple times - and you have to be disciplined about what you eat, small interventions you make in the moment, and how you sleep. I also know that despite being born an eternal optimist, I do carry stress, sometimes significant stress. So just like how an athlete might shift their diet, or move to strength training from only aerobic exercise, similarly I set myself up to strengthen my own mental health by committing to practices that work for me and constantly tweaking my approach to continue to improve.

So the first thing in the morning workout is the beginning of dealing with daily stress. I also most days do a short 5 min meditation at the end of my workout. I'm not excited when my alarm clock goes off, but it's the discipline that allows me to keep up my pace and energy of work. This works for me. For some of you late nights may be the answer, everyone has a different clock.

At the end of day I try not to make TV the wind down moment. I love to read. It's what I do for the last 30-45mins before sleep. This discipline also allows separation from what I'm thinking about all the time, separates screen time before bed, and allows for better sleep.

Can anything good come out of...

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' Romans 8:28

Four months ago, along with many other people, I received a positive PCR test. It wasn't a great surprise as our two daughters had tested positive the week before and I hadn't felt great for a couple of days.

However, the thought of being unwell and having to isolate made my heart sink. So to help fill the days I thought I would keep a diary of my journey through Covid-19. I reflected on what I was thinking and feeling and I found it to be a very helpful exercise. Below I've outlined some of the lessons and blessings I learnt through my Covid-19 journey.

SHOCK – When I received the test result I found it hard to settle and focus on things for a couple of days. No matter what I tried to do my mind always went back to what my symptoms were or might be. I learnt again the huge impact of shock on us when we receive difficult news about our health or family. In times of shock we need to be gentle and patient with ourselves.

MEDICATION – Thankfully my symptoms were relatively mild, a headache and feeling "a bit under the weather".

For three days taking paracetamol regularly greatly helped me. Half an hour after taking the medication I was working away in the garden, painting the shed, tidying the garage as well as keeping up with what ministry work I could do in my study. The painkillers made a huge difference in the early days of isolation. I learnt to be grateful for those who carry out the medical research so we can have access to medication to help us when we are unwell.

LONELINESS – My study is at the front of the rectory. I'm able to see people go by as they walk their dogs, do the school run or visit the local shop. Whilst I was able to see these people I was not able to enjoy the freedom they had. With my wife and three kids all out at work and school I felt lonely and missed company. I had a little insight into how lonely it must be for people who would like to get out more but who are unable to do so. How important it is to make time for those who live alone and cannot get out to mix socially with others.

KINDNESS – As the news spread around the parish that the rector had Covid I was blessed by acts of kindness. A number of people phoned and sent messages. Some

came to the door with food parcels. A retired Church of Ireland minister stepped in to cover the Sunday and midweek services. I learnt that I am surrounded by many thoughtful and appreciative parishioners. In my time of trouble I felt their concern and love.

REFRESHMENT – Probably like many people today, I don't find it easy to take the time to be still. During the ten days of isolation I had plenty of time to be still! It was almost like a mini retreat. I had time to read and meditate on the Bible, pray and listen to God as well as rest my body and mind. I was reminded that, in being still, I could hear God more clearly. I learnt that it's not necessarily more activity the Christian church needs today but perhaps less activity so we have time to rest in our Heavenly Father's loving arms.

Whilst I would never say I was glad to have had Covid-19, I am grateful for what I learnt through my experience. In times of illness, as we seek God, we can know His blessings.

Rev Paul Lyons

The Fullness of the Empty Tomb



It seems like yesterday, but it was all of 26 years ago when my wife and I hauled each other, along with our young family of four children, to the USA. I had a four-year contract to manage a small Irish-owned company in California that I'm happy to say, was a successful time in my business life - but I digress.

Nevertheless, the experience was challenging on many levels, not least because Irish culture and West-coast USA culture have about as much in common as a plate of spaghetti and a jet engine. We landed in LAX in August 1996 and our first challenge was the heat - it was unbearable! The desert-like temperatures of Southern California resulted in sky-high air-conditioning bills and, notwithstanding the proximity of a phenomenally large swimming pool, we collectively longed for the cool Irish air of a Wicklow walk. You really could have fried an egg on the pavement (sidewalk!) ...if you had an egg.

There were plenty of cultural challenges too. We found people to be friendly but formal - nobody ever dropped in without a prior arrangement and 'thank you' cards were de rigueur, even for the tiniest level of hospitality. Thankfully, we made a ton of friends through the church and got involved in many aspects of ministry, our 'Irishness' bestowing upon us considerable novelty value. We did find it curious though that for many people, even in the upmarket location of Westlake Village, 'you were what you drove.'

Now, I thought our startlingly white, three-litre Plymouth Voyager minivan looked rather good in the Southern-California sunshine, but it eventually dawned on me that our car was

in desirability terms, about a 2 on a scale of 10 in our neighbourhood! That was as bad as discovering my 91361 zip code was a considerable step below the bordering 91362!

Cars are important in the US and particularly vital when public transport is almost non-existent. I used to help in a Homeless Shelter run by our church and all those folk who desperately needed the hot meals and overnight accommodation, inevitably arrived by car. Even the homeless needed their own transport in that neighbourhood.

Cars were also heavily advertised in our weekly (three kilo) Saturday newspaper - offer after offer proclaiming the 'hottest' deals and the latest models. I was often tempted and did once visit a dealership with a business colleague who was six years my junior. Things got off to a bad start when the salesperson addressed my friend with the words "So, buying a car with your dad?" - not a good start. Then, the offers that seemed so good when they screamed from our newspaper, turned out to be really... not so hot. The dealership had only one car at the advertised priced and that had, 'just sold.' No problem, still plenty of other models from which to choose, hundreds in fact. The problem was that every model had a list of 'extras' that always ended up doubling the cost of the monthly payment. I soon realised that the so-called 'hot offers' were a pipedream, designed as a hook to lure unsuspecting victims into the car showrooms where the sales pitch would begin. A never-ending stream of words carefully articulated into empty promises. Empty... such a negative word with both the words 'negative' and 'empty' often being interchangeable. The connotation of the word

'empty' can also lead us to other words we don't like - vacant, blank, void, or vacuous - it's as if something should be there but isn't.

Yet, as Easter approaches, the word 'empty' is one of the most hopeful and victorious words upon which we can dwell. The 'empty' tomb is proof that God has conquered every evil force that ever was. The proof that his love is greater than the sin, arrogance and pride that nailed him to a cross. A proclamation that shouts, "He is risen!" and demonstrates the lie of death's dominion. That's what the empty tomb means today - a space that overflows with joy and a hope that continues to change lives today, through the grace and mercy of a forgiving Father. No empty words or promises. Instead, we have the gift of an empty tomb and the promise of an inheritance to treasure. A blessed Easter to you.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."
1 Peter 1: 3-5

Geoff Scargill
Geoff is a Trustee of St. James' Church - Crinken (Dublin & Glendalough Diocese).

LONELINESS

Never Journey Alone

LONELINESS can be hard to describe and spot. It affects everyone differently. It can occur at any time and for any number of reasons, with no regard to age or gender or whether we live in an urban or rural setting. It is possible to feel lonely in a crowd. It is a feeling that comes and goes through life, but most loneliness is temporary. Being on our own does not always mean being lonely, and indeed, there may be times when we enjoy time alone. Yet there are times when loneliness can be overwhelming.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF LONELINESS?

When we feel lonely, we crave human connections. However, when loneliness becomes entrenched, we are more likely to withdraw. Our self esteem and our ability to communicate and connect is eroded. We lose confidence and withdraw, and together as a community we lose valuable skills, talents, passions, and resources, and are the poorer for it.

Loneliness in Northern Ireland: A call to action reports that one in three people in Northern Ireland often feel lonely, with 1 in 20 people affected by chronic loneliness. This equates to 80,000 people affected by long term loneliness.

Loneliness damages our physical and mental health. Studies show that being lonely can be as harmful to our bodies as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It is more damaging than obesity and increases the risk of developing a disability. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the plight of those who are lonely, a loneliness which extends far beyond those who live alone.



Recently a Mothers' Union team, chaired by Lady Christine Eames, researched, and created a leaflet dedicated to the topic of 'loneliness.'

"It seemed to me that the Mothers' Union is in a very special position to be part of tackling the loneliness that so many people are experiencing. The leaflet is part of our attempt not just to recognise the situation but a commitment to be part of tackling it whether as member to member, as a branch or as part of the Church as we ponder the question, "Who is my neighbour?"

The leaflet centres on developing the top strategies in combatting loneliness - 'Communicating and Connecting' and is available to every member and parish in Ireland.

It contains practical information, as well as starting points for those who feel they would like to be part of addressing 'loneliness' in a more structured form. An interesting section is dedicated to enhancing our listening skills!

'Nothing makes a person feel more valued than being heard. Truly listening to another person can make all the difference.'

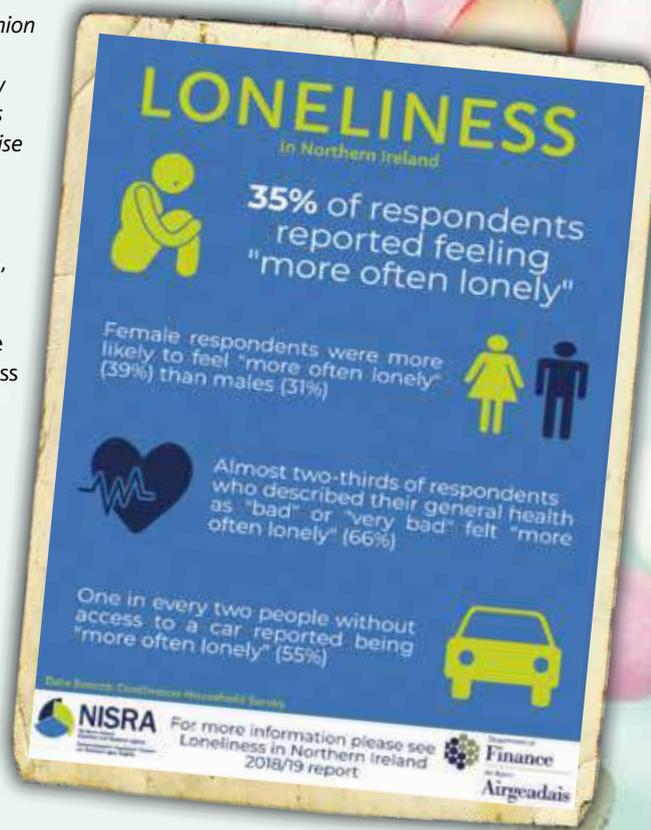
It acknowledges the needs of both young and old and the fact that "loneliness", whether within us or because of physical isolation, has the potential to affect most, if not all of us, at some time in our lives.

Friendship and fellowship are a key element of Mothers' Union and church initiatives. As a church people together, we are indeed uniquely well placed to carry out the types of activities that have been proven to be most effective in reducing loneliness.

One sure certainty is that we never walk alone. Our God sees us, cares about us, and is always at hand to extend his helping hand regardless of our circumstances.

Our Christian faith teaches us of the presence of God with us and gives us that

We are more connected than ever before, but are we feeling more alone?



comfort and assurance; it also challenges us to love our neighbours and show kindness one to another.

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up'. 'For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.'
1Thessalonians 5:11; Isaiah 41:13

For further information, please contact secretarydandrmothersunion@gmail.com

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

on yer bike!

Service above self. This is the motto of Rotary International. It is the core value of Rotary.

Rotary International is a world wide organisation; it is a service organisation, aiming to see a world of change, a world with good health care and education; food and water for all; a world where local economies can grow; a world in which peace can thrive. There are 70 Rotary Clubs across the island of Ireland. It is not possible to recount the many projects in which they have been or are involved - local and international projects which reach far and wide.

I want to tell you of a project of Rotary Ireland. It is called "Bikes 4 Africa." Life is difficult for a child in Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa. The early life of a child means facing multiple health issues, from trying to survive malaria to having a balanced diet. Children have to work hard, often having to farm before and after school, and education suffers especially for children from rural areas whose families depend on farming for a living.

Many children have to walk a long distance to school, some over 5km. A typical journey could take at least 90 minutes with children arriving late and tired for school, having to walk such long distances in hot sunshine to school and face the return journey at 2 pm in the afternoon when the sun is at its hottest.

Having a bike to cycle to school makes a huge difference for a student. Students tend to be more attentive at school having not had to walk a long distance. Students look after the bikes which last them for many years. In Africa the advantage of owning a bike can improve lives through access to education, work and essential services. Having a bike is a huge status symbol for students and they are so proud of the bikes they receive.

Rotary Ireland has a project where people are asked to donate their old, unwanted bikes. These are brought to a centre for refurbishment. The people who are doing the work are trained to a professional standard, and receive a recognised qualification. The refurbished bikes are then transported by container to Africa, and distributed through the local schools to those in most need - those who have furthest to walk. Over the past 6 years Rotary Ireland has collected over 5000 bikes and sent them to schools in Africa. The bikes have been collected by Rotary Clubs across Ireland. Since January 2020, 3106 Bikes have gone to Gambia and 4 Containers were shipped in 2021.

The amazing part of this project, it that it has impacted on many different people working together for the common good. The people who are refurbishing the bikes, are prisoners. At present the programme runs in prisons



in County Cavan and County Roscommon. The individuals working in the bike shed not only develop the technical skills required to refurbish bikes, but through their personal involvement their motivation improves and there is a positive effect on their self-esteem.

There is a group of Rotarians working on starting the same project in Magilligan prison, with a confirmed capacity of 1500 per year. I watch with keen interest as this strand of the project begins to unfold.

We call it a win-win project:

- A win because it is a recycling project
- A win because it is part of a prisoner rehabilitation programme
- A win because young, underprivileged people in Africa can access education.

Please pray for the young people in Africa, for the prisoners and for all who have hope and trust in this project.

Rev'd Liz FitzGerald
District Secretary
Rotary Ireland

Walled City Passion



WALLED CITY PASSION

walledcitypassion.com

The prolonged lockdowns during the pandemic pushed many people to their wits' end. In an effort to fill seemingly interminable days, large numbers turned to the screen - devouring films and TV programmes, and bingeing on box sets. The arts sustained many of us over the two years of Covid-19 but for the sector, locally, the period proved disastrous, with a calamitous impact on income and jobs.

In the Grouped Parishes of Christ Church, Culmore, Muff and St Peter (CCCMSP), support for the arts is among our core values, so we felt driven to do something to help. Walled City Passion (WCP) is, in part, our response to Covid-19.

WCP is an ambitious, free, multi-platform performance and broadcast event that will reimagine the story of Christ's Passion for a modern-day audience. It was commissioned by CCCMSP to encourage investment locally and to support the arts, tourism and hospitality. It's intended to make a meaningful contribution that will help our community as it emerges from the pandemic.

The project combines the talents of a disparate group of friends: Archdeacon Robert Miller (whose brainchild it was); playwright and theatre director, Jonathan Burgess and two-time IFTA (Irish Film and Television Academy) award-winning television producer, Paul McKay. The trio have conceived a dramatic reimagining of the Passion that will be told through live-streamed promenade performances. Guildhall Square and Derry-Londonderry's most distinctive historical asset - its famous 400-year-old city walls - will provide the dramatic backdrop.

With the arts, music and live performance at its centre, Jonathan Burgess's drama sets the Easter story in the world we now live in - one which turned to Netflix rather than the Church during the pandemic. It is designed to engage a modern, tech-savvy audience in perceiving the Passion through the prism of channel-hopping, 24-hour news coverage. As the story unfolds, it'll be accompanied by rapid-fire social media updates, adversarial commentary and wall-to-wall advertising. The team have even

created their own TV channel, WCP News, for the occasion.

By using this multi-platform format, we hope to bring the Passion story and its message of hope closer to a modern, secular audience. The city walls, so often a source of contention, will be reimagined as a symbol of togetherness, community and redemption. Two livestreamed performances will take place at 12 noon and 4.30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday - the 14th, 15th and 16th of April 2022. Each performance will last around 75 minutes and be shown on big screens in Guildhall Square and Waterloo Place. Tiered seating will be used to create an outdoor amphitheatre-style space in Guildhall Square, where musical acts and performances will add to the audience experience.

BBC iPlayer and RTÉ Player will livestream the 4.30 p.m. Good Friday performance. RTÉ 1 Television will broadcast Walled City Passion on Easter Sunday at 10.30 p.m.

Digging up The Rectory Garden

JOHNNY MCNEE

The phone rang in the Tamlaght Finlagan Parish Rectory in Ballykelly. The Canon's wife got up to answer it. "Who is it?" asked the Canon from the sofa where he was trying to relax and recharge, tired from the Advent run up to Christmas. "It's some man from Claudy" she said, "he wants to know can he dig a plane out of our front garden?"

And with that, our latest mission took flight. It was late in 2019, and after finishing my latest dig, I promised my wife that I wasn't going to find and dig up any more buried WW2 aircraft. Then out of the blue, I was telephoned by an elderly gentleman from Southend on Sea in England. He said he had seen my work and that of the Foyle College Aviation Team (FCAT's) on a series of Digging for Britain and he was wondering could we find the site where his father had died along with two other crew members in a crash in Ballykelly.

The FCAT pupils are no strangers to such digs having previously excavated a Battle of Britain Spitfire and a US P38 Lightning as part of a critically acclaimed and award winning 18 month exhibition for Monaghan County Museum during 2017 - 2019. Ron Chadwick explained to me that the crew and their Coastal Command Bristol Beaufort, serial number AW 271 had fallen to earth on 30th April 1942 near to their Coastal Command base at RAF Ballykelly. The twin engined aircraft, crashed, from

low altitude, while undertaking parachute tests. The crew were F/L Archibald Duncan Livingstone RAF (22), F/L Richard William Gilbert Holdsworth RAF VR (31) & Ron's father F/S Stanley Frederick Chadwick (22). With the enthusiastic support of Canon Harold Given, I began to frequent his church pews on occasional Sundays, nibbling a few minutes out of his Morning Prayer services, to pick the brains of his parishioners for any recollections of the crash. While few were aware of the crash in any great detail, most had vaguely heard of it, but all were able to confirm without any shadow of a doubt that the crash was in the field to the left of the Rectory driveway. "Sure, it's called the 'Crash Field'!" they told me confidently. For the next 8 months, my surveying colleague Dr Alastair Ruffell (Queen's University Belfast) and I traipsed up and down this very boggy field. It was full of large puddles, ring pull tops and bits of old barbed wire. It was not full of aircraft wreckage. Not even in the slightest! The team knew that the site had been subject to an RAF tidy-up in 1942 in the days after the crash. The post-crash tidy ups tended to be meticulous. Partly because of the compassionate need to remove the mortal remains of the crew from the burnt-out aircraft, but specifically in this case, to also remove any remaining traces of the top-secret radar that this aircraft was carrying at the time. But regardless of such fastidious clean ups, such crash sites always yield a part or two. However, we could find nothing.

Then in a eureka moment, I suggested we ignore all talk of the crash field. Yes, the aircraft might have clipped the top of a tree - as many recalled - in the 'Crash Field', but that didn't necessarily mean it had crashed there - only that it clipped a tree that grew in that field. What if it struck the tree, struggled on, across the drive and exploded in the field opposite the 'Crash Field'? This field had no name. Better still, it was naturally free draining and easy to survey. On 25th July 2020, and within 25 minutes of starting our first survey in the 'anonymous field', we found the spot using

our ground penetrating radar equipment. After 78 years, the crash site of Beaufort AW271 had been located.

Immediately, the FCAT pupils went to work. They put all the relatives in touch with each other and created a 'pupil team' for each crew member. They kept them updated with survey results and learnt the family stories of Richard, Stanley and Duncan. The pupils learnt sympathy, empathy and how to listen. They learnt of these young men from a son and a daughter who never met their fathers. Richard and Stanley perishing before they ever got to meet their newborn children.

The pupils respectfully promised the crew relatives they would excavate the site sensitively, assisted by a PSNI forensic team. They further promised they would fund raise to erect a memorial commemoration stone to mark the site and, if possible, arrange a commemoration service. They came true on their promises, raising almost £6,000 as a result of submitting funding applications and developing an on-line funding page.

The excavation was licensed both by the MOD JCCC (Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre) under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 and by the Department for Communities (Historic Environment Division) under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects Order - HMAO 1985. Just to add some more pressure, the excavation was filmed for the next series of the BBC archaeology series 'Digging for Britain'. And all this in the middle of a global pandemic!

A multi-disciplinary team was assembled for the dig which unearthed two large pits full of the post-crash debris tidy up that was undertaken in 1942. The fuselage of the aircraft was consumed by fire after the





impact and much evidence of the intense burning was revealed. The pupils revealed the burnt soil surface and many pieces of molten aluminium. They spoke eloquently to the Press and compassionately to the relatives about the finds they had made. Photos were shared and many tears were shed. Key items found were parts of a propeller blade, the fuselage ballast weights, and much piping and cabling. One of the FCAT pupils said "It was very poignant to find evidence of the fire - the burnt wood, aluminium and melted Perspex".

Later in September, a commemoration

event was held at which all the relatives of the crew attended, along with RAF officials, a Royal British Legion Flag party and parishioners. The FCAT pupils spoke of their pride in participating in this project. The relatives spoke of their everlasting thanks to these strangers in Ballykelly and young pupils who took them in and helped them lay to rest many questions that had burdened them for almost 80 years. A memorial stone was unveiled as a Spitfire from the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew high overhead. I'm not ashamed to say I and many other were very bleary eyed throughout the service.

This was a very emotional dig. It was never about finding large amounts of wreckage. This was more about what we didn't find. We could provide 100% assurance to the families that their loved ones had been removed from the site and respectfully buried in 1942. We presented them with a little memory box of retrieved fragments of AW 271. Someone once said: 'To die and

be forgotten, is to die twice'. A beautifully engraved memorial stone and a copper beech tree now stand as guardians on the spot where AW 271 fell to earth.

We made a promise to find and remember Stanley, Richard and Duncan. I'm delighted to report Mission Accomplished!



The Journey Continues for Resilient Disciples...

Timeless Publications Ltd. 30 Jun. 2021 ISBN 183816412X

'Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples; Principles and Practices for a Life of Lasting Faith' by Rick Hill was commended to me by a teaching colleague. Intrigued by the title, I sought out a copy. The pursuit of the seemingly elusive, but highly desirable attribute of 'Resilience' has become a goal for many. Traditionally the goal of resilience has focussed on promoting good mental health, particularly within our young people. To see this concept linked with discipleship, opened up a new perspective on the subject, and I delved into the book expectantly. I wasn't disappointed!

While possibly directed towards young adults and those engaged in their spiritual development, the book affords readers of all ages and stages in their faith journey an opportunity to focus and re-centre on the key characteristics of resilient discipleship. Themes expounded include responding to the call, embracing the cost, committing to community, cultivating spiritual habits, engaging culture, choosing courage, enduring challenges and relying on the companionship of the Holy Spirit. These enabled me to discover afresh the steps necessary to develop as a resilient disciple. This is a long-term process rather than a short-term goal on one's spiritual journey.

The book is interspersed with relatable anecdotal asides which illustrate common stumbling blocks and provide inspirational examples of resilient discipleship. These are drawn from both biblical and modern day Christian examples. This supported me as I grappled with a deep seated desire to 'dig deep' into the faith rather than to remain content, a 'click in' Christian, hungry for spiritual feeding but surviving on 'faith snacks' acquired through surfing the extensive menu of online services, prayer groups and reflections that have become prolific throughout the pandemic. Undoubtedly the rich variety of online ministry has sustained many throughout the pandemic, but it is too easy to slip into 'church shopping' consumerism. Rick asserts that comfort is one

of the biggest obstacles to faith, and I imagine that includes the comfort of our sofas! While acknowledging the creativity that online corporate Christianity birthed, he remains unconvinced that resilient faith will ever be built outside the body of Christ. We need both the encouragement of others and also biblical teaching to build deeper roots in order to become resilient disciples. That is why God designed the church as community. 'Resilient discipleship will involve moving beyond mere attendance at a gathering or digitally downloading content to placing ourselves into the presence of other believers. Our lives need to be rooted in the context of a church community where we can be known and loved, as well as inspired, encouraged, and even corrected along the way.'

Clearly, we must embrace the call of Jesus and endure challenges faced in order to understand that developing a faith for what Rick calls 'the long haul' means 'putting down deep roots and investing below the surface'. We need that foundation for our faith to flourish when all we have relied on is stripped away and in order to see difficulties as opportunities for growth. Rick cautions that the call of Jesus is not to form 'cosy huddles or inward looking cliques'. Instead Jesus calls us to be 'an outward-looking, forward-moving, lost-reaching, gospel-speaking, kingdom-minded, people-serving and mission-focussed army of disciples'. Responding to the Great Commission is not optional; we must obey.

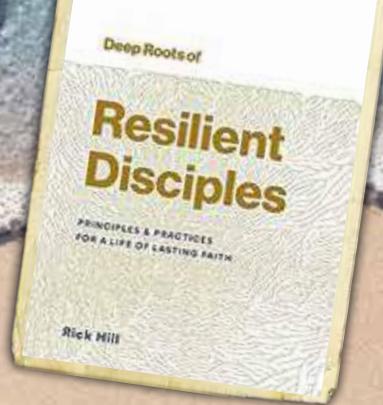
Many of our churches are struggling to attract back their members to pre-pandemic numbers. Rick suggests this has also been impacted by the secular nature of our society. He asserts that people focus on numbers, while God is more interested in 'weight'. Pandemic or not, we can no longer rely on people coming to our churches. Rather than focussing on getting people in, we need to go to where people are. This requires courage. We need to be culturally relevant yet at the

same time recognise that much of what we do will contrast with cultural norms. As resilient disciples we must actively engage with the culture around us while ensuring the Bible shapes our lives and causes us to live differently.

Above all, the message of the book is that the key to rooted and resilient discipleship is 'abiding in Christ'. We need a daily awareness of and intimacy with Christ, as without Him 'we can do nothing'. It is more about relationship with Christ than activity for him. 'Resilient disciples face their unknown futures like everyone else, unsure about the specifics but certain about the reality of God's presence with them in times of suffering and joy, challenge and opportunities, illness and death.' A practical book, grounded in Scripture, it promotes participation rather than simply head knowledge, through the incorporation of three insightful pointers on which to reflect and act upon at the end of each chapter. To me it was a 'homecoming', an opportunity to be re-challenged and motivated by the truths of the Gospel and a renewed call to follow Jesus. Every chapter has a 'lightbulb' moment. Much in the same way as interventions promoting mental resilience bring light and hope, this book illuminates the journey to maturity with Jesus. I commend it highly to all those seeking an authentic, long-lasting faith. It would also make a great basis for study group discussion.

Kay Clarke

Note: 'Rick Hill is a speaker, leader and writer based near Belfast, NI. He is married to Sarah and they have two young sons, Noah and Micah. Rick has served in various ministry roles for the past 15 years, now working for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in the areas of discipleship and leadership. He serves on the leadership team in Cammoney Church and has also recently been involved in a fresh city-centre church plant in Belfast.'



RECOVERY JOURNEY

Shhh you can't share that, what will people think...?

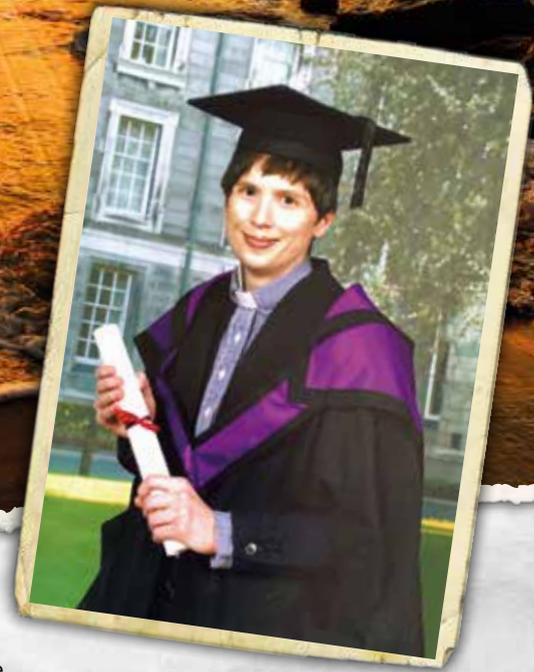
REV CLAIRE HENDERSON

You may think that it's strange for an ordained minister to be open and honest about their mental health struggles, but I am not ashamed or scared to be vulnerable.

I live life with C-PTSD (Complex Post-traumatic Stress Disorder). When I first heard PTSD my response was, "that's something people in the armed forces get isn't it?" My therapist turned to me and said, "No Claire, anyone who has experienced trauma in their life can have PTSD." It was like a light bulb moment for me. Finally I could put a name to all the thoughts, feelings and emotions that would pulsate through my body at the most inconvenient moments. I could understand why my sleep patterns were messed up, why I was exhausted all the time even if I hadn't been busy. I was living life in fight or flight mode. Adrenaline flowed through my body, keeping me on alert basically all the time. The slightest noise startled me; new surroundings or recurrent physical illness

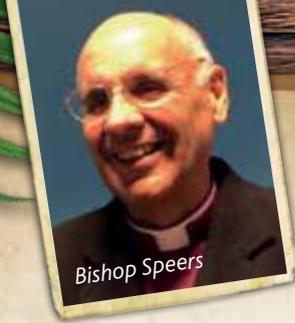
made me anxious and stressed; even normal everyday smells, that reminded me of the tough times, made my stomach do somersaults. I became a shadow of the person I once was. I couldn't find my voice or my words. I struggled to identify what was going on within me. I would sit in silence at times when asked a question. I would avoid eye contact and, to a certain degree, I became withdrawn. Life was passing by but for me it was just about surviving from one day to the next.

As I have learned more about C-PTSD I realised that I could begin to rebuild my life again; nothing was off limits. For so long I felt that I never was going to be able to live a fulfilling, enriching life - it seemed like a dream. Fast forward to now: as I have learned to manage my C-PTSD I have been able to achieve things that previously I would have been scared to even think about. I attained my Masters of Theology, was ordained and began to do some training in Mental Health. I'm able to



use my new found voice to sit on a mental health work stream for the Western Trust and share my story with others to show them that recovery is possible.

Life maybe looks a little different than I had imagined, but that's ok. I have found that I thrive on routine. There are times when I just need space to rest and restore my body and mind. Through my recovery journey I have learned coping mechanisms and various techniques that help me manage my C-PTSD. No longer does it have that strong firm grip it once had on me: I have my strong grip on it. I am able to show others that it is possible to have a life - an enriching, fulfilling and rewarding life, where hopes and dreams no longer seem so far away. They are just around the corner.



Our Mad Life

Happy New Year and The Shock of Sudden Loss

The new year in Madagascar is a great and exuberant celebration. Strangely, this was my first New Year actually here in Mahajanga so I was not sure what to expect. There is an unwritten rule concerning when things begin which I have yet to understand. A 6.00 am service starts at 6 am and I need to be there well before that to be prepared, but other functions that have an advertised starting time begin often about 45 minutes later and I get strange looks when I turn up 15 minutes before the time and take my place. So when I got very evasive answers as to what form the cathedral New Year's eve "Vigil", starting at 8 pm was to take, I inwardly groaned and wondered what would happen.

About a quarter to nine the Archdeacon started a "hymn sandwich": a hymn, a reading, and a prayer, repeatedly - the choices seemed pretty random. Another surprise for me was the announcement of refreshments just after 10 pm. Would I like tea or coffee?

We never ever have refreshments after services here, much less during them - with the major exception of a meal for all after a great celebration. Of late I have discovered that tea makes for a very disturbed night while coffee bizarrely does the opposite. Coffee is usually very strong and served with copious spoonfuls of sugar in tiny cups. My not having sugar is so unusual that it is one of the best-known facts about the bishop. Thus I was presented with a large mug of coffee.

The last hymn before midnight ended just short of the time so the organ played and we all jigged around for the remaining few

minutes. In spite of what I said about time practically everyone knew the exact midnight hour as they were watching the time on their mobiles and on the second there was a great shout and we all raucously sang the Te Deum with many simultaneously texting their New Year greetings to friends. I gave the Blessing and we all kissed and hugged each other. All pretty overwhelming for me, especially as I have to deal with some kissing my face and some the episcopal ring and some both! Hand gel and social distancing belong to another world which seemed very far away as I happily went off to bed and a deep sleep while the younger members of the congregation went off to party.

New Year's day is the day when all Malagasy families try to be together for a special mid-day meal. The Archdeacon and his family kindly included me in their family lunch. *(Bottom left)*

Thanks to the generosity of the good people of the diocese of Derry & Raphoe we have just been able to buy a substantial rice field at Manaratsandry. This will support a clergyman there in the future. Also we have started work on a house at St James'. This is part of an ambitious project to have university student accommodation with the clergyman supervising the students and looking after the parish. At the time of writing we are still struggling with endlessly complicated planning permission which has to go between 5 different government offices. The paperwork regularly gets lost in the offices. It is never clear if it is actually lost or someone is wanting a bribe to 'find' it. I am assured that it is legal to start work when the request has been with the higher authorities for a certain period.

There are lots of plans for 2022 and, like you, we hope this is a year that we can keep to our plans for family, church and community. I hope especially that the much-delayed Lambeth Conference will take place 'face to face' in Canterbury. All best wishes for a healthy and blessed 2022 with time to relax and relate to loved ones.

Just after I wrote to you about our Happy New Year, coronavirus struck.

On the Monday Sister Isabelle, the devoted and dynamic leader of our Anglican Sisters, felt unwell and on Friday morning 7th January she died of Covid-19. Due to the stringent covid emergency regulations where the Sisters live, her body could not



be taken to her family tomb and she had to be buried the same day in the Convent garden. Due to the immediate burial many friends including myself could not attend. Bishop Jaona of Antananarivo spent the day with the Sisters. This is a traumatic event for the Sisters and a shock for us all.

The next day the priest at Ambatoharanana, where Sarah and I used to live and where we originally set up the community, also died. We thank God for the lives of two people who dedicated themselves to helping others. Dazed as we all are by sudden deaths the stream of life carries us forward.

With the sudden wave of covid various regulations are back in place but seem to be widely ignored here in Mahajanga after the first week.

I got a call from the Bishop of Antananarivo on the 12th asking me to be in the capital for meetings on the 14th. That meant setting off at 5.30am the next morning. Meanwhile our rains started. The journey is getting longer each day as parts of the road get swept away or buried in mud. I was booked to stay with the RC Cenacle Sisters but arrived long after everyone had gone to bed and had to spend a further half hour rousing people to unlock the gate.

While on my travels I had missed an important message saying that the bishops and their wives would have an audience with the President of Madagascar in the afternoon. The Malagasy are wonderful at turning themselves out smartly and dressing up as befits the event. I look so dowdy and scruffy beside my colleagues. Besides my 'good suit' is safely in a cupboard in England. Covering up with a cassock was not an option. A further surprise for me, not moving in diplomatic circles, was that we would be received in the presidential palace on the edge of the city (not the old colonial residence in the city centre). Flashy cars were provided and we set off.



On alighting, men in what looked like eighteenth century military uniforms drew and held aloft their swords, as we made our way up the immaculate red carpet. As far as I was concerned it felt more story book than reality - the only thing missing were the trumpets!

On reaching the end of the carpet we were to bow to the president and then take our seats. We lined up accordingly and were led to the "throne room" where in the middle was seated the President.

At the end he pointed to the table beside each chair and wished us a happy New Year and asked us to accept from him a bar of chocolate with a photograph of himself on the wrapper. Mine was Cocoa Nibs

& Sea Salt flavour - as usual sounds better in French: éclats de fèves et fleur de sel marin. I gave the Blessing and we returned to the red carpet.

Another night on the bus in worsening road conditions and although I rang to say I couldn't possibly be in church for the 8.30 am service, please start without me, I arrived to find everyone had insisted on waiting almost an hour for me to arrive. It was another "Bonne Année" event and I had to be there. (Bottom left)

Life has been something of a rollercoaster event this year already. To add to that I am booked to leave Mahajanga on 30th January on my way to the UK. I will leave behind a country now suffering from disastrous floods in the centre and northern parts of the island. In the capital where houses are built on steep terraces retaining walls have been collapsing and the stadium is now housing the thousands of homeless.

This comes with love, thanks and prayers.

Yours +Hall hallspeers@gmail.com

24 January 2022, Hall's wife Sarah writes:

Dear Friends, Thank you for your prayers and good wishes for Hall's safe return from Madagascar. His journey included the twists, turns and uncertainties which seem to be par for the course but he arrived safely on Thursday. We are very glad that he managed to travel ahead of Cyclone Batsirai which is currently battering the poor island.

Hall hopes to go back at the beginning of March so we have a potentially busy schedule ahead which, now that he is definitely here, we can begin planning. He is very pleased because he thinks he has lost some weight. This needs to be checked on another set of scales! It won't last long as he is looking forward to the mince pies and Christmas pudding he missed out on. Thank you all for your continuing support and encouragement, Sarah.



DRY Report

Exciting times ahead!

Our youth work is entering into a very exciting time - restrictions easing, the weather getting brighter (apart from the occasional storm) and there is a desire to get together more.

Derry and Raphoe Youth have created their brand-new calendar of events for 2022 and you'll find some old favourites like the DRY Weekend and Summer Madness, along with some new items like our Holy Week Prayer Walk Podcast. The aim for our youth events is to bring all the young people together to help create lasting friendships while getting closer to God. We want young people to be excited to come to the next one because they're going to see their friends again, and all the ones and twos in parishes around the Diocese can feel like they all belong together.

We've had the great pleasure of running our Reflect & Resource Leaders' Day and the Diocesan Confirmation Day this year so far. It was wonderful to have The Big House facilitating our leaders in reflecting about their youth and children's ministry and how much our love for God shapes that. It shows how times have changed because we were able to have leaders attending in person and joining via zoom. Our confirmation day was a special time for young people to gather and we looked at how Jesus' miracles are still important for us today and what he

wants us to keep doing with our lives. It was a great time filled with teaching, games and pizza. We had a lovely visit from Bishop Andrew who spoke to them, recalling his own confirmation over 40 years ago, and shared with the group a reflection based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Throughout the excitement, some of us may still feel a bit uneasy about coming back to "normal" events and we need to have understanding for those who still want to take their time. We will always be thinking of the safety of everyone around us at all our events and we will be keeping some of them online and outside until everyone feels settled. In everything that we do, we can rely on the help of those around us and always on the strength of God. The passage that DRY often uses is from Ephesians 3:20, but as I was reading it again I looked at the chapter as a whole and thought the verses before it were very useful for the times we are in

"I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength" Ephesians 3:16 (The Message).

In all that lies ahead, I pray that you can feel God's strength inside you, an inner strength that you can rely on when you feel uncertain, shaky in the unknown, a bit afraid to take a leap of faith towards the new. Whatever you do, you will always have God by your side.

Claire

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i @derryraphoeyouth



First Aid for MENTAL HEALTH



At the start of February SEEDS invited Tom Tate from *Why Mind* to lead a session on First Aid for Mental Health, focusing on children and young people.

Over Zoom Tom delivered a very interesting and informative session that was full of practical tips and encouragement. This happened the week before Children's Mental Health Week 2022 where the news reported statistics such as a 24% increase in the number of referrals to CAMHS from Emergency Departments for young people presenting during a mental health crisis. (BBC News) There have also been reports that during the pandemic children and young people have been disproportionately impacted by mental health and emotional wellbeing issues.

In 2021, Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council and Why Mind worked together to collaborate in some research into young people, mental health, and the church. To date sixty-two people completed the survey. A total of 67% of respondents said they had struggled with their mental health - 81% of the female respondents and 50% of the males. This is in line with other surveys. The survey showed that young people are talking

more to parents, friends and counsellors about their mental health which reflects more open dialogue, work in schools and people being more aware of mental health.

A total of 79% of respondents felt that faith had an impact on their mental health. Meanwhile, 67% felt that the Bible was relevant when it came to mental health. 34% said they would go to their church community for advice or direction concerning their mental health and 32% said they could be open about their mental health in church settings.

Youth work settings, youth workers and leaders play an important role as these are the people to whom the participants asked said they would take their concerns. This shows the impact youth work can have, especially where positive relationships allow for open and honest discussion. This also highlights the need for leaders and volunteers to be aware of mental health issues, organisations to which they can signpost, and the need to have a layer of support for workers to talk to if needed.

At the start of our Zoom session Tom explained why these open conversations

are important and he pointed out that Jesus cared about the whole person - he met people's emotional needs, spiritual needs and physical needs. If we, as Christians, are following the example of Jesus, we need to care for the whole person as well. Children and young people play an important role in our churches. We need to do our best to support them in all aspects of their lives - we need to provide a safe space where they can be open and honest knowing safeguards are in place to protect and help them. We must provide opportunities for children and young people to be seen and heard. We should work with leaders and volunteers to ensure they have access to up-to-date contact details for organisations that can help and allow space for them to be supported as well. Mental Health is an ongoing issue and one from which we must never shy away.

For more information on the survey see <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/04/14/lets-talk-about-mental-health>

Kirsty McCartney and The Board of Social Responsibility

A day in the life of a... **Prison Officer** Safety & Support Team

The Safety & Support Team within HM Prison Magilligan provides support for those most challenging and vulnerable within our care. Our dedicated team have a set caseload that we engage with and manage throughout the day.

On a daily basis we perform one-to-one check-ins to ensure those in our care feel safe and know there is someone to talk to. These check-ins enable us to gauge the mood and demeanour of the individual and be able to assess if they need signposted to further partner agencies. The partner agencies with which we have links are the Mental Health Team, Quaker Service, CRUSE, NIACRO, Ad:Ept (Alcohol and Drugs: Empowering People Through Therapy), Addictions, Healthcare, Chaplaincy and the Rainbow project. If we see an individual in crisis we can take steps such as introducing the intervention of a SPAR Evo (Supporting Prisoner At Risk Evolution programme). This is opened by a multi-disciplinary panel to ensure all possible measures are taken to keep the individual safe. Some of the

interventions that we have designed to support those in our care are our therapeutic distraction packs. These offer alternative ways of dealing with stress, anxiety and also reduce the number of incidents of self-harm.

All residential locations have been provided with a HIS Box ('Help I'm Struggling'). The team have developed a unique box of puzzles and activities for prisoners who show signs of anxiety, distress and agitation.

When individuals are provided with either a therapeutic distraction pack or the HIS Box, it calms them, helps them re-focus or provides a timely diversion until Mental Health and Healthcare teams can provide professional support.

Archie is a new recruit to Magilligan

He was introduced by his Mum who has worked in the Print Shop, within Magilligan. They help those in our care who struggle with social engagement and various learning and mental health issues. Archie is 4 years old and when not in Magilligan lives with his Mum and the rest of her family. Currently Archie is befriending a number of people in our care but, as we start to look at coming out of COVID, we are hoping to start organising group work to enable us to support more people with the help of Archie. The group activities will involve the Mental Health Team, Safety & Support team, Archie and his Mum.



We also link in with the residential houses to help identify any new individuals who may require additional support whilst in custody. This allows us to offer our services and signpost these individuals to the appropriate agencies that can help. One of the services that we can offer to individuals who have suffered bereavement, is the opportunity to view funeral services on-line in the event that they cannot be released for the funeral



service. This is also followed up by the support of CRUSE counselling, if required. Each day within the prison is unpredictable and comes with many challenges, but seeing the rewards of helping the individuals in our care, through the support network we have, makes it all worthwhile, helping with their rehabilitation and eventual resettlement into the community.

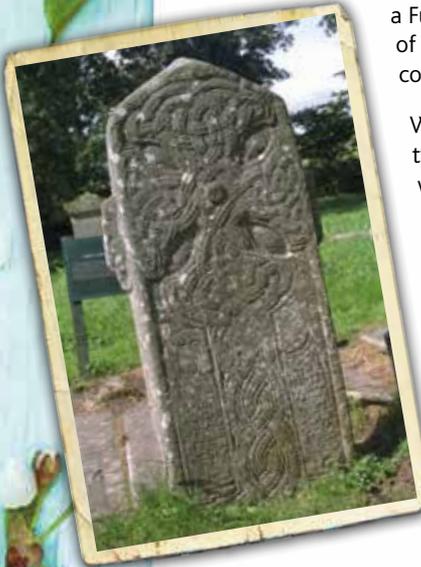


ST. MURA'S CROSS

COLM O'TUATHALAIN

Beside the restored Fahan Old Church stands Saint Mura's Cross-Slab. This early Christian Cross has stood here for 1400 years and has withstood Viking raids and the sack of the monastery which had survived here for a thousand years. Recently it has fallen victim to a much more subtle attack, climate change and air pollution. In 2018 when we looked at photographs taken over the past seventy years the deterioration of the cross was obvious.

With the aid of a small grant from the Heritage Council we commissioned a local firm of archaeologists to develop a conservation plan. The most imminent threat to the cross was the ruin of Fahan Old Church beside the Cross. It was imperative that the ruin be stabilised. With much help from local conservation architect, Caroline Dickson, a plan was drawn up to achieve this. The costs were met by a Fundit Campaign, a number of other functions and aided by a grant of €15,000 from the Community Monuments Fund. The work was completed in August 2019.

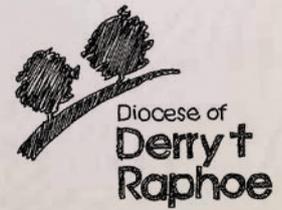


We then turned our attention to the Cross. Dr Jason Bolton identified two serious problems. The artwork was hidden by a coat of lichen which would have to be removed. The cross was tilted to the East and to the South. John Cronin and Associates, archaeologists, began a sophisticated monitoring of the Cross to detect minute movement of the stone. This is continuing at present. Dr Bolton began removing the biofilm and has been partially successful. This has exposed the artwork and in particular the Greek inscription on the North side which makes this unique among all the early Christian crosses in Ireland. The inscription reads "Glory and honour to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit." Δόξα Πατρι και Υιῷ και Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι

Our recent meeting with the people from the National Monument Service has left us in little doubt that if the cross is left exposed to the elements it will deteriorate further. We must devise a plan to cover it 'in situ' or move it and replace it with a replica. Our plan for this year is to develop a 'Virtual Tour' of the graveyard which will be available on-site and off-site so that everyone can enjoy this wonderful place. A highlight of the tour will be a virtual reconstruction of the ancient monastic site based on historical, archaeological and topographical records.

We cannot leave this topic without expressing our thanks to the members of the committee, the local community and everyone who has contributed to our project.

Diocesan noticeboard!



tiny tots
Parent and Toddler Group

Tuesdays 10.30- 12

Derg Parochial Hall

For parents / carers with babies and children of pre-school age.
£2 per child and £1 per additional child.
Healthy refreshments provided

CHRIST CHURCH CASTLEROCK BT51 4RA

Flower Festival
"Lord, for the Years"

Artistic Director Alan Beatty
assisted by James Burnside

Friday 27th May - Sunday 29th May 2022

Festival Times:
Friday 10am-7pm
Opening service at 11am
Saturday 10am-7pm
Sunday 2pm-6pm
Closing service at 7pm

Refreshments available
Group bookings welcome
Contact Debbie Moore
07751 542013 or
debbiemore573@aol.com
Proceeds in Aid of Church Funds
Registered charity in NI 104695-0

A PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE MICA CRISIS

Loving God, We pray for everyone affected by the Mica Crisis.

You see our crumbling homes and buildings. You hear our cries for help. You have compassion on everyone you have created.

God of justice, you call us to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly. As our community journeys through this dark valley, walk with us, comfort and strengthen us. You are our help in times of trouble. Protect us and keep us safe.

Lord Jesus, you entered our world of suffering and carried our sorrows. You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. In the midst of frustration, anger, uncertainty, fear and distress, help us to walk together, to love and care for one another, leaving no one behind. Help us to avoid hostility, rebuild trust and restore relationships.

Holy Spirit, in darkness and despair, you are our light. Darkness cannot overpower you. Shine your light of truth and bring integrity and fairness into our community.

We pray for those in positions of authority that they may fulfil their responsibility to protect the wellbeing of all.

We pray for just and fair solutions for the restoration, rebuilding and flourishing of every person in our community. You promise a peace that passes understanding. Bring peace to troubled hearts; bring calm to anxious minds. You are our hope! Amen

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Save the Date

DERG AND KILLETER PARISH GROUP
PLATINUM PARISH PICNIC
THURSDAY 2ND JUNE
11.30-3.30
@ BARONSCOURT ESTATE

Relatives of the late former Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Dr James Mehaffey, attended a Service in St Columb's Cathedral, on 30th January 2022, during which a plaque was dedicated to the late bishop's memory.

The dedication was performed by one of his successors, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, as the former bishop's widow, Mrs Thelma Mehaffey, and the couple's daughter Wendy and son Tim, looked on.



**Sea View Garden
Salthill, Mountcharles.
F94 H2T5.
Open: 2-6pm Friday,
Saturday and Monday,
17th, 18th & 20th June.
All monies go to Fields
of Life, well-drilling
in Uganda.**

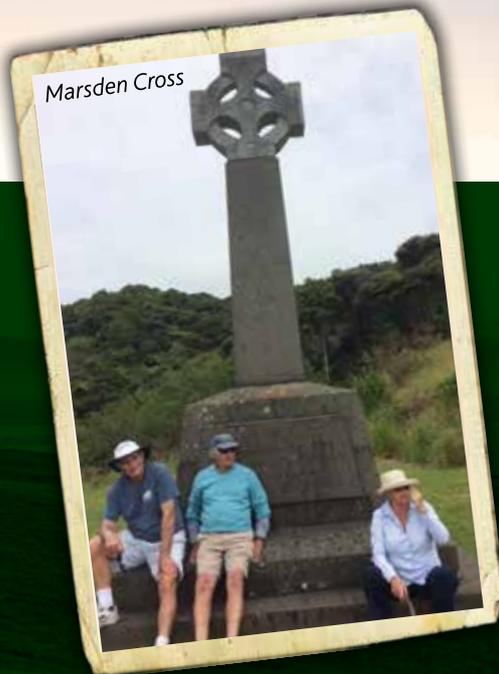


Former Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, is one of ten leaders who are to be recognised with honorary degrees from Ulster University for their "outstanding contributions" locally and globally. Bishop Good and Dr Alastair Hamilton CBE are being recognised for their outstanding leadership.

The Rector of St Augustine's Church, in Londonderry, Rev Nigel Cairns, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County Borough. The appointment was made by Dr Angela Garvey, the Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Londonderry. Deputy Lieutenants are expected to carry out public duties on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant. We, in the Diocese, congratulate Rev Cairns on his appointment and wish him every success in fulfilling these additional new duties.



The Journey



Our family arrived in New Zealand in January 1988 to begin a new life farming sheep and cattle in the Lake Taupo area of the North Island.

We had been farming at Straidarron, near Claudy and were part of the Learmount Parish in Park. Our younger son Peter was baptised at Learmount and we loved our time as members of the Parish. We settled near the town of Taupo and our local Anglican church was also a small country church and part of a group of four churches that linked back to the CMS missionaries who brought the Word to Aotearoa/New Zealand. In 1814 the Māori Chief Ruatara, who had travelled internationally studying agriculture, invited the Rev'd Samuel Marsden to come from Australia to the Bay of Islands to preach the Gospel. Ruatara promised the Rev'd Marsden a safe passage and land on which to establish a mission. The Gospel was first preached at Oihi Bay on Christmas Day to the local Māori community who lived at the Rangihoua Pa on the hills surrounding the bay. Today the site is now a heritage park with a large Celtic cross overlooking the bay.

A favourite New Zealand Christmas carol reminds of the arrival of the Gospel when we sing:

*"On a summer day
Within a quiet bay
The Maori people heard
The great and glorious word
Te Harinui, Te Harinui
Te Harinui, Glad tidings of great joy"*

Today in 2022 our local church of St Matthew's, Oruanui's Community Church, looks out from a small hill over the farming fields now cleared by European settlers. St Matthew's was built by the local Māori community in 1911. Māori have lived in the area since the 14th century when a migration of seven large canoes arrived in the Bay of Plenty from the Islands of the Pacific. Building the church was a community project. Young apprentice builders learnt skills building the church and local school children prepared the flax and wove the tukutuku panels and painted the Kowhaiwhai art work that still adorn the church today.

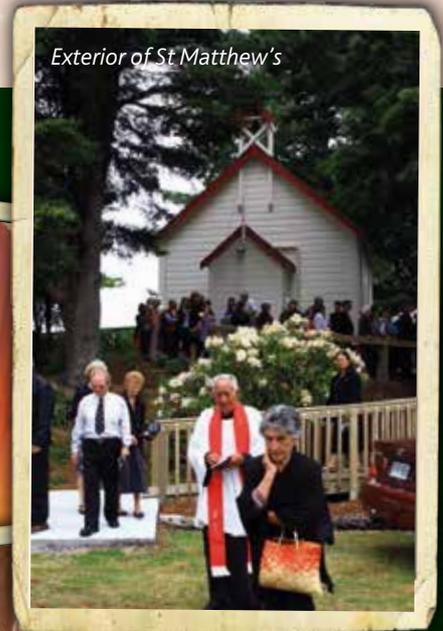
The church is overseen by Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa, which is the Māori Tikanga strand of the Anglican Church. In 1992 the New Zealand Anglican Church Constitution was rewritten to provide for the three partners of the New Anglican church to manage their affairs within their own cultural context. The three strands are Tikanga Pakeha (European), Tikanga Maori and Tikanga Pasefika (known as the Diocese of Polynesia)

Our little church delights in being part of Tikanga Māori. We are led by our minister Rev'd Peace Mitchell, who has Māori as her first language. Our services are held once a month and are joyful and often full of laughter. Both Māori and Pakeha come

Down Under



Sarah Hart in the redecorated church



Exterior of St Matthew's



Christmas service in St Matthew's

together to worship and support each other. The New Zealand prayerbook is a fantastic resource and we can pray and sing in both languages, sometimes at the same time! The days are shortening as I write this, and the hot days of summer are mellowing with much needed rain softening the ground, helping grass growth. We are now preparing for the time of Lent and looking forward to Eastertide.

Here in Aotearoa/New Zealand we, the Hart family, Rick, Sarah, Patrick and Peter will remember with gratitude our time as part of the Learmount Parish as we celebrate Eastertide at our little missionary church, St Matthew's, Oruanui.

*Kua ara a te Ariki, Hareruia!
The Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!
Luke 24.34*

Continues...



Diocesan Manoeuvres!

Reverend Liz congratulations on your appointment as Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain

1. What are your earliest memories of the Mothers' Union?

My earliest memory of Mothers' Union was with my grandmother, at the Church House in Armagh. I was probably only 7 or 8 years old. A very capable squad of ladies were "doing tea" for a large group of clergy. I can only presume this was synod. There were a lot of very noisy men in black (clergy), and ladies in printed aprons servicing tea and goodies. My job was to pass round the sugar. I was made to feel important and useful.

2. Tell us a bit about your family please.

I was brought up in Omagh, and it is my hometown. I have been married to Sean for 38 years, and our son has just turned thirty. He returned to university 2½ years ago, living at home and studying in Magee. He has managed to keep going through lockdown. Sean is a captain on one of the Stena ferries in the Irish Sea, and works 4 weeks away onboard, 4 weeks at home. But this is due to come to an end with his retirement looming in just a few months. We have never lived together for longer than 6 weeks at a time - so there is big change on its way. I am appointed as Bishop's Curate to the parishes Gweedore with Carrickfinn, and Templecrone in West Donegal. It is part-time and I spend 3 days a week there, along with my three wee westies. I enjoy it very much. I feel fulfilled, but I also feel there is always God's work to be done. And there are fantastic beaches! My Grandfather Pollard was rector in

Brackaville, Coalisland for over 30 years (and died before I was born). So my father was a son of the Rectory. My grandmother, Nancy Pollard, was a daughter of the Rectory, her father having been Rector in Drum Co. Monaghan and then Newtownsaville, just outside Omagh. She loved Mothers' Union and was involved at an all-Ireland level. I can remember the excitement of her journeying to Mary Sumner House in London, in the 1960s, and she flew when people didn't fly to London as we do now. Family and church and the love of God have been part of my family and an anchor for me.

3. What part of your new role in the diocese as MU Chaplain are you looking forward to most?

I am looking forward to seeing people again - after the two years we have just had, seeing and chatting and having a cup of tea together will be appreciated in a way we took for granted before. This is how, I believe, we will manage to get life going again. If I am invited, I hope to visit as many MUs as possible. To encourage friendship, the love of God and love of others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves. I am, by nature, quite a shy person, but as soon as I put on "my wee white smile" that is my clerical collar, I become so much more a servant of God that I want to share the joy and love he brings to me, with others. We are social beings. Let us be social and care for the social needs of all. Isn't the MU scarf gorgeous? The oak leaf for Derry and the fuchsia for Raphoe.



4. What values of the MU most inspire you?

The family is such a strong influence on our lives. This is something that has come across loud and clear over the 2 years of restrictions. When we are denied access to something important, we realise how precious it is. Many of us come from happy Christian homes. The work the Mothers' Union does in supporting those with poor relationships or abusive relationships is wonderful. One of my great interests is supporting women in the developing world - support in health and education, clean water, and medicines. These women have the same ambitions as we have for our children - an education, a good job and an opportunity for an improved life.

5. What do you enjoy doing for fun?

Oh, that's easy - I love being up the hillsides, on the water or by the sea; being quite simply in the Sperrins, Donegal, or Lough Erne.

6. Please tell us one thing very few people know about you.

I was top all-round athlete in school at age 16; second top at 18.



Rev Philip Benson, welcome to Derry and Raphoe. n:vision readers would like you to tell us a little bit about yourself

1. Can you tell us a little about your Christian journey to this point?

Thank you for your warm welcome. I am looking forward to serving here in Derry and Raphoe and the Parishes of Desertmartin and Termoneeny. Faith has always been part of my life as I grew up in a Christian home in Bangor with my parents and older brother. My family attended Carnalea Methodist Church, where I went to the BB and Sunday School and the youth fellowship. Confirmation was an important moment for me as it was then that I took ownership of my faith for myself as a follower of Jesus Christ. After some wise advice, I applied to study theology at Queen's University Belfast.

On graduating, I went on to study for a master's degree also in theology. During my studies, I was a volunteer youth worker. Once I completed my master's degree and married Carolyn, I was fortunate to be employed as a full-time youth worker. As much as I enjoyed being a youth worker, there was always that niggler that I had a calling to the ordained ministry. After speaking with my rector, I began discerning that call. I was accepted for ordination training and began studying in 2012. In 2014, I was ordained deacon, and in 2015, I was ordained priest, both in Connor Diocese. Bishop Alan Abernathy then appointed me to serve my curacy in the Parishes

of Larne, Glynn and Raloo. After that, I was appointed to the neighbouring parish of Kilwaughter and Cairncastle with All Saints in 2018.

2. How do you wind down and relax?

I like to spend time with my family and friends, especially my wife Carolyn and daughter Hannah. I also enjoy reading, listening to music, watching movies and sports. I am a rather long-suffering Leeds United supporter.

3. What is your favourite book/movie?

Growing up, I loved the Lord of the Rings trilogy and would reread them even now. For a movie, either the Godfather or Groundhog Day.

4. Please tell our readers a little about a person (living or dead) who has had an influence on your ministry.

My grandparents had a lot of influence on me. They were long-term members of Carnmoney Parish Church and, in later life, took on the roles of caretaker and sextoness. They both



had a profound faith but lived it out in doing small acts of kindness without drawing attention to themselves.

5. What do you think are the top three responsibilities of leading a parish in the 21st century?

Making Jesus Christ known, as well as caring for and building up the people of God, would be a good two to start with. Added to that, as we are now hopefully coming out of the other side of the pandemic, reconnecting with parishioners and the wider community is going to be as important as ever.

6. What is your favourite Easter Egg?

There really is only one correct answer, and that's Cadbury's Crème Egg!

By Sea and by Land. Transforming for the future - Foyle Port...

Captain Bill McCann, Operations Director & Harbour Master, Foyle Port

After a global pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU, ports and harbours across the world and closer to home have been under immense pressure.

With the price of everything from raw materials to fuels rising significantly and the ongoing climate crisis posing an existential challenge to our society, there are a number of previously unprecedented challenges before us.

As the marine gateway for the North West, Foyle Port is mindful of its role in tackling these challenges for our business but also for the communities we serve. Foyle Port plays a hugely significant role for Derry, Donegal, and the surrounding environs. A quick look at the numbers shows that we handle over 2 million tonnes of cargo per year, with an estimated value of £1 billion; we facilitate the import of essential agri-products which support over 20,000 farms in the North West; and we support approximately 1000 direct and indirect jobs.

We are conscious of the significance we play in our region and the positive impact we can make through our actions. That's why we commit to supporting our local communities around the key themes of People, Partners, Planet, and Place. That's why we support schools, community groups, local sports teams, and heritage groups on an annual basis through our Corporate

Social Responsibility Fund. And it's why we are committed to constantly evolving and diversifying our services and our methods. I'm confident that the future of Foyle Port, and indeed of Derry and the North West, is increasingly bright. The work of the port is constantly improving and evolving, as we prioritise environmental and long-term sustainability. We now source 80% of our electricity from low carbon fuel sources and we are continuing to meet our decarbonisation obligations by investing in electric vehicles. We're proud to have reduced our CO₂ emissions by 76 tonnes over the past year, but we are aware we have more to do. And I'm pleased to say, like the seafarers we welcome on a daily basis, that we are on that important journey.

Foyle Port is committed to decarbonisation and diversification. Our substantial landbank of 200 acres here at the port, considerable expansion capacity and up to one million square feet of warehousing, gives us the ability and the flexibility to diversify our operations, meet our green obligations, and attract new investment, which will boost the local area and the communities we serve. We are also excited by the potential of a freeport for the North West, and we are working hard to make this a reality, a freeport driven by shipping, green energy, and innovation.

As the world changes, so too our institutions change with it. Foyle Port is no different in this respect. We are mindful of our role in the North West, and we intend to lead by example in transforming post-pandemic, especially in respect of our green obligations. We will still be rooted in the communities we serve but, with initiatives like the freeport agenda and our significant landbank which offers potential for businesses and investors alike, Foyle Port can become even more of a force for innovation and development in the North West.

Editor's note: I asked Bill if he listened to the Shipping Forecast on BBC Radio 4 or did he prefer the Countryfile forecast? He laughed as he lifted his mobile phone - 'No', he said, 'I have access to the constantly changing forecasts on this. Gone are the days when we had to have all staff waiting for ships to come in, only to stand them down if the weather changed. Now we know in advance!



DON'T FORGET YOU CAN PULL OUT MY SPECIAL PAGES FROM THE MAGAZINE!



Hello my friends. It is great to be back with you all. I hope that you are all feeling happy and safe.



CJ News

NUMBER 30

I hope you all had a great Christmas and you are now ready for the lead up to Easter.

I really enjoy finding out about what is happening in different places around the world. To help me gain this knowledge and find out more, I often watch the news. If you have been watching the news, like me, I am sure you will have seen the worrying developments across the world where war has been declared.



WAR = ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OR DIFFERENT GROUPS WITHIN A COUNTRY

Many people across our country have been working hard to gather supplies to help those who have been affected by the events of this war. It would be great if we all could think very hard about how we can help and then turn these thoughts into action! If you are worrying about any of the events of this war it is important that we don't keep these worries to ourselves but that we share them with someone who we know can help us understand and take our worries away.



As you can see each person is wearing some sort of armour or protective gear to make sure that they are kept safe. In many jobs or activities it's important to have the right gear to protect us. If a firefighter walked into a burning building without protection they would get burned or if a scuba diver went under water without safety gear they could drown.



Do you know what all these pictures have in common?



GOD GIVES US ARMOUR TO HELP US FIGHT AGAINST EVIL.



What other things can you think of that we need protection from? Just like people do things to protect themselves from harm in their jobs, God has given us certain tools to protect us from evil. In the Bible Paul writes that these tools are like the armour of a soldier.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18



Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus to remind them that God gives them everything they need to fight the battle against evil. Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison. He was surrounded by Roman guards and probably noticed the armour they wore. Paul thought that the ways God protects us are a lot like armour. God has given us armour to protect us from evil and to stand up for our faith.

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
We have the sword of the Spirit, which we can think of as the Word of God.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
Even though we all sin, when we put our trust in Christ, we are forgiven.

BELT OF TRUTH
We find Truth in God alone, and when we wrap this Truth around us like a belt, it holds everything together.



HELMET OF SALVATION
God has given us the helmet of salvation to protect us from evil lies. Our salvation keeps us from believing lies and giving up!

SHIELD OF FAITH
Paul said our shield is our faith in Christ. When evil comes our way we can hold up our faith in Jesus and are protected.

BOOTS/SHOES
Boots are worn to protect your feet and help a soldier to run bravely into battle. Paul said our shoes are like the gospel. We can share God's message which can change the hearts of our enemies and bring peace!



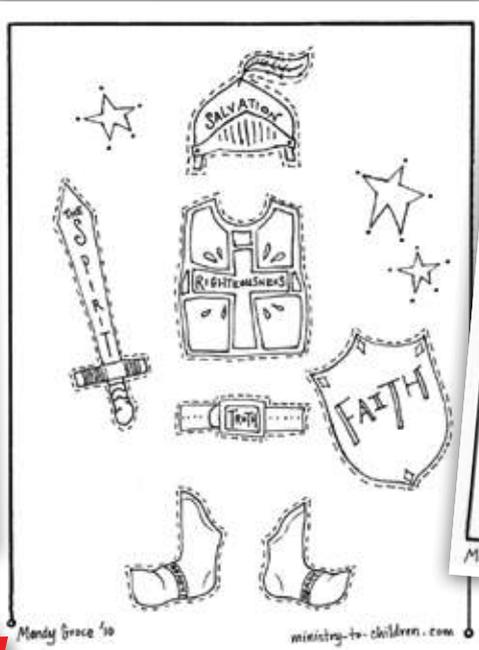
God gives us this armour to fight all that is bad. It's important to know how to use the tools that God gives us to fight evil around us. When Jesus was tempted in the desert by the devil, he was trying to tell him lies to get him to sin. In fact, he tried to use God's Word against Jesus. But Jesus didn't fall for it! He used God's word to fight against the Devil.

God, guide us and encourage us to follow in your ways and put on your armour when we need it, to fight off evil and keep us safe from harm. Be with all those in countries affected by war, let them come to know you, put on your armour and hold firm in their faith against evil forces at work. Amen.





Colour me and add my armour!



CAN YOU DESIGN YOUR OWN EASTER BONNET!



SWEET SHOP CHOCOLATE SLAB...

Ingredients:

- 400g dark or milk chocolate
- 100g white chocolate
- Assortment of Easter Treats

YUM!



Method:

STEP 1 - Line an A4-sized baking sheet with parchment. Break the dark or milk chocolate into a large glass bowl. Bring a small saucepan of water to a slow simmer, then sit the bowl on top, making sure it doesn't touch the water. Over a low heat, slowly melt the chocolate, stirring once it begins to melt, or melt in the microwave in short bursts until smooth and glossy.

STEP 2 - Pour the chocolate onto the prepared baking sheet, spread into an even layer using a palette knife, then melt the white chocolate following the same method. Dot blobs of the white chocolate on top of the dark chocolate, then use a skewer to swirl them together in any pattern you like.

STEP 3 - Top with any assortment of treats you fancy - the more outrageous the better. Leave to set at room temperature to get a glossy effect, then break into shards to serve. Will keep for two weeks in an airtight container.

[HTTPS://WWW.BBGOODFOOD.COM/RECIPES/SWEET-SHOP-BARK](https://www.bbgoodfood.com/recipes/sweet-shop-bark)

CJ - OUT AND ABOUT...



My friends in St James Parish Church in Donemana have been very busy.



It was all about spreading the love. The boys and girls made hearts from shrink plastic and watched as they melted and took their shape in the warm oven. This was a lovely gift for someone at home. They also made cookies as a treat.



They also had great fun making all different sorts of pancakes. This included American pancakes and even pancakes from Co Tyrone! I think eating the pancakes was even more fun, especially when there was chocolate spread.



A LITTLE MESSAGE...

Hello from everyone from St Mura's National School in Buncrana where we are watching 'fahanandbuncranachurchofireland' Facebook page every week and learning about Jesus so that we can deepen our relationship with God and each other! We are listening to God and most importantly responding to him by using the gifts (like creativity) that he has given us in our art work!



Contact me on email
cj@derryandrapphoe.org



Happy Easter



ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF IRELAND...

Glencolumbkille

The history of St Columba's Parish Church and the site on which it stands in many ways reflect the history of Ireland.

The remoteness of this area with its access to the sea may have been the attraction for the early Christian communities which settled in the Glen and have traditionally been ascribed to St Columba. The Turas (or pilgrimage route) of St Columba, which in living memory attracted pilgrims from all over Ireland, begins and ends in the graveyard which surrounds the present church. The carved standing stones which mark the stations of the Turas are believed to date from the sixth century.

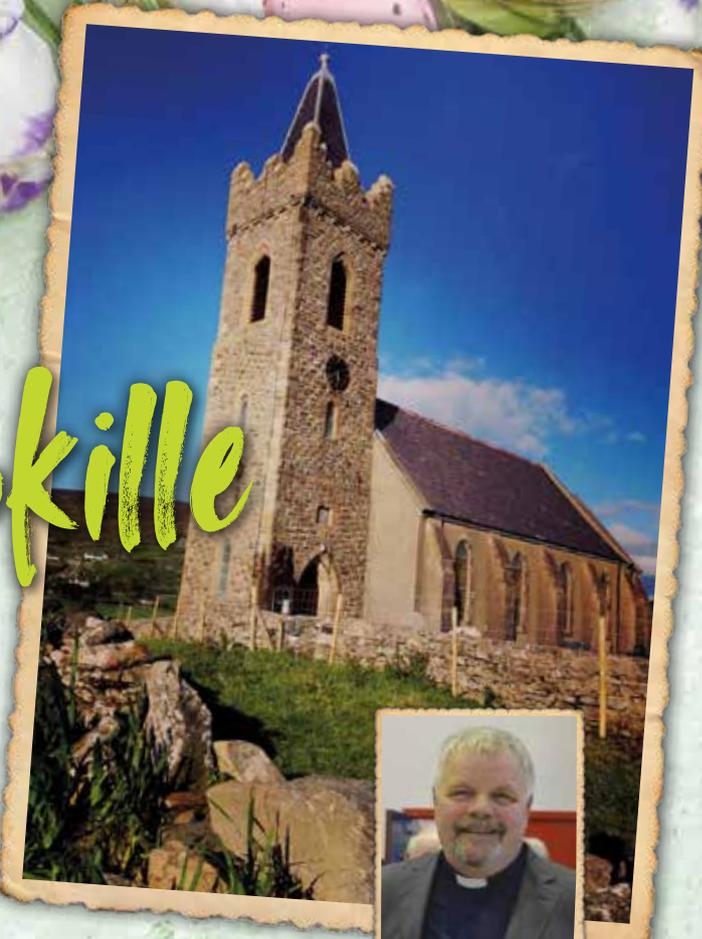
In the graveyard close to the church there is a ninth century souterrain (underground refuge from raiders), which can still be entered today. An older church was replaced by the present building in 1828. A tower was added in 1913 by the Musgrave family who were the landlords of the Glencolumbkille estate.

The stained glass east window depicts a scene from Matthew 25: 35, "I was hungry and he fed me meat". This memorial window to John R Musgrave commemorates when in 1879 the people being in "utter starvation" the Musgrave family provided a continual supply of meal, feeding 789 families in Kilcar and Glencolumbkille. This Protestant church had grown from approximately three families in the early 1660s (Plantation of Ulster) to 36 families

in 1766. Today there are six families registered in the parish, some of which consists of one person.

This church, which survived Vikings, conflict and hardship, colonisation, starvation and rebellion is facing closure. Not because the building is crumbling, it is in fact in good repair. Not because of repression or lack of money, the wider community has and is willingly and generously financially supported this small Protestant community.

This hugely historical and spiritually important church is to close because of the lack of people. As the number of parishioners diminished so the responsibility for the maintenance of this parish fell on fewer and fewer shoulders until those few who were left could no longer bear the weight. The select vestry (4) who have strived ceaselessly for years made the extremely difficult and courageous decision that the Church of Ireland community within Glencolumbkille could no longer sustain the commitment needed to maintain the parish church. At a very sombre and emotional Select Vestry meeting they made the decision to relinquish their responsibility for the care and management of this building in the full knowledge that this would lead to closure.



Rev Robert Wray

The situation in which this parish finds itself is by no means unique. Churches are emptying, not because of religious difference, but because of religious indifference. Nor is it of any use beating our chests and lamenting the loss of the focal point of a Christian community. The strength and sustainability of any community lies in the commitment of the members of that community to work together for the good of all, giving generously of their time and skill. And yes, money is needed, but churches do not close because of the lack of money. They close because of the lack of people. Remember that the next time someone comes to sell you a ticket. Don't just put your hand in your pocket, but please ask if you can help and try hard to turn up at the event for which you have bought the ticket.

The wound of closure cuts deep. Please remember the people of 'Glenn' in your prayers and know that the unthinkable can happen, churches can close.

News for the pews...



Facebook details are included for parishes that use Facebook. PLEASE NOTE - you do not have to be on Facebook to access a parish page. Just type the parish Facebook name or address, e.g. @cccmsp into your search engine on smart phone or laptop/tablet etc and click on the parish page.

INSPIRED BY THE PAST; SERVING IN THE PRESENT; LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

By Rev Canon
Paul Hoey, Rector

200 Years of Worship and Witness: St Canice's, Eglinton

On 16th January, Bishop Andrew launched a year of celebration for St Canice's to mark 200 years of worship in the current church building. As well as special services, there will be a concert, a showcase for young opera singers, a community barbecue, a Parish Meal, a Crib Festival, and a Duck Derby! Former clergy and lay readers have been invited to preach, and we're also going to bury a time capsule in the church grounds so that future generations will know what was happening in St Canice's in 2022.

It's impossible to pass through Eglinton without noticing St Canice's, one of the village's most impressive buildings. Parishioners identify with Canice, a native of Dungiven, and close friend of Columba, especially in his missionary outreach and service. Before helping Columba to plant churches in Scotland in the 6th century, Canice erected a church and small monastery in the townland of Faughanvale. Some stones remain to this day marking the site. Ordnance Survey field officers in 1930 mention that, in old tradition, Canice began to erect a church at this location but was prevented, by some invisible enemy of Christianity, from bringing the gables to a point, and so had to look for an alternative site.

When the Grocers' Company developed a plantation village in the townland of Muff, they built a new church which served as

the Parish Church of Faughanvale from 1626. The iconic ruins of this building remain in the graveyard of the present church. By the 1820's, many of the buildings in the village were noted as needing a considerable amount

of work, and the Grocers' Company agreed to rebuild the village in "the English style", including replacing the Parish Church. John Bowden of Dublin was commissioned to design a new building, and he recommended the church at Fahan as a suitable template.

The church was erected with a loan of £1336 from the Board of First Fruits. Ordnance Survey officers reported, "the Parish Church situated at the East end of the village is a great ornament to it, appearing in combination with the east gable of the old church, a tasteful tomb, and some picturesque old fir trees dispersed through the church yard." This description could apply equally to the present day.

St Canice's is the only one of the three churches locally to be situated within Eglinton's boundaries. This affords it the opportunity and the responsibility to play a full part in the life of the local community,



a duty which it embraces. Through wars, famine, and global pandemic, the church building has stood witness to the timeless truths of the Christian Gospel, and offered consolation, support, and hope to all. During lockdown people commented positively on the comfort brought by the sound of the church bell pealing.

St Canice's plays an active role in the local community. In August 2017, it offered practical help to those whose homes were devastated by flooding, while repairing our church building at the same time. In 2020, it worked with the other churches and local Community Centre to co-ordinate a fantastic team of volunteers who shopped, delivered medicines, and provided telephone support to the most vulnerable.

In ways such as this, St Canice's gives credence to its ambition to be "the church at the heart of the village with the village in its heart."

When the present church building was built, the population of Eglinton was fewer than 100; today, it is approaching 5000, of which the local Church of Ireland community is barely one in ten. Our determination to be a church for the whole village, and to bear witness to the Christian faith proclaimed over 200 years, is evident in our ambitious plans for a new Parish Centre. Despite many setbacks we expect that work will commence

soon and look forward to the Centre becoming a focal point for the village.

Father God, thank you for your faithfulness and mercy to the people of St Canice's over the past 200 years. Continue to guide and empower us, we pray, so that we may be a church inspired by the past, serving in the present and looking to the future; in Jesus' name. Amen.



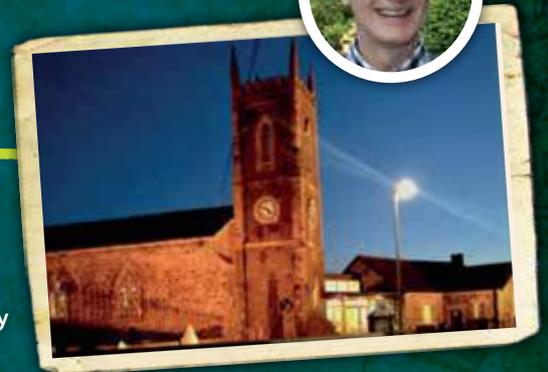
CAMUS-JUXTA-BANN (MACOSQUIN)

Rector: Rev Paul Lyons

www.camus-juxta-bann.org

Facebook: St Mary's Church @camusjuxtabannconnections

400 Years



"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5v14, 16

Into the future...

This year St Mary's Parish Church is celebrating its 400th Anniversary. During the Plantation of Ulster the Merchant Taylors Guild founded the village of Macosquin and built the church. Historical records show the church was consecrated in 1622. The anniversary celebrations began with **'Looking Back'** in the form of **'A Night of Remembering'**. In word and song we recalled how Christianity came to the area, the founding of the church and significant people and events that have shaped the church. Due to social distancing guidelines, and to allow more people to attend, the event was held on two evenings, Friday 25th February and 4th March. Thank you to everyone who helped to lead the worship and talks at these evenings. As we listened our hearts rejoiced, like the psalmist, in praise of God's goodness. 'I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.' Psalm 77:11

The next event in our 400th anniversary year is **'Looking In'**, 10th - 15th April 2022. After all the limitations of the pandemic the aim of

this Holy Week programme is to gather the church flock back together, to build up faith and friendships in the church family. It begins on Palm Sunday, 10th April 6pm, with a **Family Worship Evening** when the guest speaker will be our Bishop Andrew Forster.

On Tuesday 12th April 7.30pm we're having a **'Can't Cook, Won't Cook'** evening in the Upper Hall with Bishop Andrew Forster & the Rector participating.

On Maundy Thursday 14th April 6pm there'll be an **Agape Meal** in the Upper Hall. At this event we'll do as the early Church did, meet to eat and worship together.

On Good Friday 15th April 7.30pm there'll be a **Service of Reflection** in church.

At the third anniversary event **'Macosquin 400 Jubilee Fete'** we'll be **'Looking Out'** to celebrate the church's anniversary and Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee with the local community. This is on Saturday 21st May 2022 12noon-4pm in the rectory gardens.

The fete will have all the usual activities, stalls, refreshments, BBQ, kid's activities and visiting bands and choirs to entertain. The Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry, Mrs Alison Millar will open the Fete and judge the

kids fancy dress competition (best dressed member of the Royal Family).

Finally we'll be **'Looking Forward'** on Sunday 11th September 2022 10.30am in St Mary's Church at a **Thanksgiving Service**. We'll welcome back Bishop Andrew Forster who'll preach at the service and help us to consider what God is calling our church to do and be in the days ahead.

I hope and pray many people will participate and attend these anniversary events as we step into the future...

May we keep praying the Prayer of Commitment throughout this year:

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you may think in me. Above all, I give you my heart that you may grow in me, so that in all I do I will bring you and the church honour and glory. Amen

DONEGAL, KILLYMARD, LOUGH ESKE & LAGHEY

300 Years



Rector: Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe

Tel: 074 9721075

Email: donegal@raphoe.anglican.org

www.donegal-raphoe.anglican.org

Facebook: @DonegalGroupofParishes

Donegal Group of Parishes

We are slowly but steadily emerging from the shadow of Covid-19 and giving thanks for this, while painfully aware of the deeper shadow of war now taking place in Ukraine. Our prayers are with the people of that country and so is our practical support through Bishops' Appeal.

We hope to be able to hold a fuller range of services and special events over the coming months now that Coronavirus restrictions have largely ended. In particular, 2022 sees the 300th anniversary of the formation of the parish of Donegal. The parish was separated from the ancient parish of Drumholm in 1722 and given its own rector, the Revd Robertson (father of the famous Robertson who founded many schools in County Donegal). For over 100 years the congregation worshipped in a small church in the grounds of the old Franciscan Friary (usually called the Old Abbey) in Donegal, of which only a tiny fragment remains. In 1828 the present church was consecrated.

2022 is also the centenary of the re-grouping of the parishes of Killymard and Lough Eske under one rector, the Revd Robert Ryan, in 1922. These two parishes have a 100+ year history of close cooperation and friendship which is greatly appreciated. Events to mark these anniversaries will be held later in the year.

Laghey parish continues with ambitious long-term plans to redevelop the parish hall and surrounding lands to enhance facilities for the church and community. This will eventually include a kitchen upgrade, increased storage and meeting space, recreation and playground areas and a riverside walk.

The Mustard Seed is open again after a facelift and it is great to see it busy with many activities throughout the week. Well done to the staff and volunteers for all their work.

Baptisms

Elizabeth Eve Duncan-Sturrock, 2nd January 2022, Killymard.

Marriage

Mai Love & Paul Travers, 2nd December 2021, Donegal.

Funerals

Willie John Scott
20th November 2021, Laghey

Allen Ramsey
24th December 2021, Lough Eske

Victor Irwin
18th January 2022, Killymard

Norman Ingram
22nd January 2022, Donegal

Desmond Wallace
9th February 2022, Donegal

Alexander Scott
4th March 2022, Laghey

DRUMHOLM, KILBARRON & ROSSNOWLAGH



Rev Canon Brian Russell: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 0749734025

Email: brianrussell117@gmail.com

DERG & TERMONAMONGAN

200 Years



Rector: Rev Peter Ferguson

Tel: 028 8167 1362

Facebook: Derg Parish Church. Termonamongan Parish

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out: for God, for Each Other, for our Community.

Advent and Christmas 2021

Our Advent and Christmas activities were very special this year with so many of our traditional celebrations returning and some new ones being added!! We began with a Christmas Tree Festival 'Carols across the Ages' held in Derg Parish Church. We had full parish and community involvement and we enjoyed the decorations that lit up Derg Parish Church throughout the season. Bishop Andrew led two Confirmation services with 36 candidates as well as speaking at our Christmas Tree Festival closing service. Our Sunday Schools came together for a Christmas Family Movie Night with Santa providing gifts for all. Our Sunday Schools also performed a Nativity Play. There was a welcome return to our renowned Carols by Candlelight and this year we enjoyed hot chocolate afterwards by the Christmas tree on the Diamond in Castledearg.

Bright and Beautiful Campaign & 200th Anniversary Year

Our campaign to restore St Bestius continues and is at a very exciting stage in this 200th Anniversary year of the original church. The full restoration on the exterior of the church is well underway. We are working so hard and exploring every avenue of grant funding, fundraising and encouraging giving among parishioners. With God's help we are succeeding and look forward, when funds allow, to proceeding with the internal works. Already we have installed our newly commissioned All Things Bright and Beautiful stained glass window. This window will be a focal point in the proposed Alexander Room, an area that will create so many opportunities for parish and community ministries.

Looking ahead

Pause Together Monthly Prayer

Recommences on Friday 4th March 11am in

Derg Parish Church. This is a time of extended prayer when we seek God for our needs and the needs of others. Prayer for wholeness and healing will be offered.

Holy Week and Easter 2022

We look forward to our special services including Maundy Thursday Easter Kids in the Youth Hall 10:30am - 12 noon. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7pm & Good Friday worship 7pm Derg Parish. Easter Sunday 8.45am Derg, 10am Killeter, 11am Derg.

Platinum Parish Picnic

At Baronscourt Estate Thursday 2nd June 2022 11:30am - 3:30pm. Come and join us as we mark and celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's remarkable 70 year reign.

CASTLEROCK, DUNBOE AND FERMOYLE

150 Years



Rector: Rev Chris MacBriithin

Facebook: Parish of Castlerock & Dunboe @CastlerockDunboe

It's all about flowers these days in Castlerock and Dunboe, which is ironic as I'm writing this on Ash Wednesday and for the duration of Lent there won't be any in church for the next 40+ days. It's all due to our Flower Festival, themed 'Lord, for the Years', this 27th-29th May, to celebrate (two years belatedly due to Covid-19) the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church, Castlerock. We have a fantastic programme lined up,

starting with an Opening Service of Praise and Thanksgiving, with our own Bishop Andrew. On Sunday 29th, Archbishop John McDowell will be preaching at the Morning Service, and previous incumbents of the parish will be presenting their favourite hymn at a closing Songs of Praise. Cecil Frances Alexander penned a hymn especially for the consecration in 1870, but the music was lost and it has never been sung since. However, our own Barry Burgess has now set the Christ

Church Consecration Hymn to music, and Alexander's hymn will be sung for the first time at the Sunday morning service! All are welcome to visit. As well as floral displays by artistic director Alan Beatty, assisted by James Burnside, there will be a musical programme and plentiful hospitality. This Lent, our theme is 'Faith in Flowers', with weekly services of Compline in St Paul's. The full Lent, Holy Week and Easter programme is on our Facebook page @CastlerockDunboe.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S, LONDONDERRY 150 Years



Rector: Rev Nigel Cairns
www.saintaugustines.co.uk
www.facebook.com/weechurch

Our Kidzklub and St. Augustine's Youth are working hard during Lent to notch up forty hours of being helpful at home and/or in the community. They had great fun just before Lent began making pancakes and crepes, and now they are preparing for the various events, including services, on the lead up to children's day. We are particularly looking forward to the forthcoming service of Confirmation, when Bishop Andrew will confirm four young people. We wish our candidates every blessing and assure them of our prayers.

At the end of January, we were delighted to be able to mark the thirteenth anniversary of LEAH - Lunch for the Elderly and Housebound. Although the anniversary itself falls in early February, this was the closest LEAH lunch by date. There was a wonderful sense of community and fellowship as the occasion was celebrated - there was even a birthday cake! A huge thanks to our catering team who work very hard to make this important aspect of our ministry so fruitful. We are delighted at (and indebted to) the great response thus far to our newly launched

building fund. This has given a much-needed boost to our finances, and the generosity of the parishioners has meant that we are in the final phase of remediating the dry rot we discovered some months ago. As St. Augustine's is edging ever closer to the 150th anniversary of our current building, we have other fabric plans afoot for a number of minor work schemes which we hope to bring to fruition either before the anniversary begins (on 9th June 2022), or during the course of the anniversary year. Thank you to everyone who continues to give of their time, finance and talent.

In respect of the anniversary year, we are working hard to put together a suitable programme which brings worship and praise to the fore, acknowledging the various epochs in our recent history, and rekindling significant memories in the life of the congregation. We very much look forward to welcoming Canon John McKegey amongst us, and we are delighted that Bishop Pat Storey will also be able to reconnect with us in the course of the year. More plans to

follow as the year gets under way.

Running in parallel with worship plans and building plans, we are looking forward to a hybrid of heritage, music and fine art throughout the year. We are so pleased that our various concerts, church café, market and art arcadia are all going from strength to strength. We remain grateful for the widespread support we receive from the diocese and from the wider community in these various ventures.

During Lent we continue with our prayer meetings on Monday evenings at 6.30pm, Holy Communion Services on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am and mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7.45pm. During Holy Week we will have a Holy Communion Service on Maundy Thursday and a Reflective service of readings and music on Good Friday evening. The muted season of Lent will finally give way to the great crescendo of Easter Day, with Holy Communion at 11am.

TEMPLEMORE, DERRY CATHEDRAL

The Very Rev Raymond Stewart: Rector of Templemore & Dean of Derry Tel: 028 7126 2746
Email: deanofderry@stcolumbs.net



Holy Week and Easter in the Cathedral

Sun 10th April / The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

11.00am A Liturgy of Readings, Hymns and Anthems for Palm Sunday
4.00pm The Service of Evensong (said)

Mon 11th April / Monday in Holy Week

7.30pm An Order for Compline

Tues 12th April / Tuesday in Holy Week

10.30am The Service of Holy Communion (Order Two) with intercessions for the sick
7.30pm An Order for Compline

Wed 13th April / Wednesday in Holy Week

7.30pm A Ministry of Healing Service

Thurs 14th April / Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Sung Eucharist of The Last Supper

Fri 15th April / Good Friday

2.00pm An Hour Beneath the Cross
3.30pm A Service at the grave of Bishop William and Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander at The City Cemetery, Londonderry
7.30pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Sun 17th April / Easter Day (The First Sunday of Easter)

11.00am Festival Choral Eucharist (Order Two) The Celebrant and Preacher will be The Right Reverend Andrew Forster
4.00pm The Service of Choral Evensong

Thurs 26th May / The Ascension Day

7.30pm The Service of Choral Eucharist (Order Two)

Sun 29th May / The Seventh Sun of Easter (Sun after The Ascension Day)

11.00am The Rite of Confirmation (Bishop

Andrew will confirm four parishioners) Creevagh House, 63 Letterkenny Road, Londonderry / Derry BT48 9XQ is the home of parishioners, William and Elma Lynn. The house had at one time been a USA World War Two Hospital. William and Elma are very kindly opening their Gardens to the public on SATURDAY 21st MAY (10.00am - 6.00pm). Admission is £5.00. All Day Teas £3.00.

Attractions will include A Photographic Exhibition of Creevagh Camp, USA World War Two Hospital; Flower Arranging Demonstrations; Plant Stall, Book Stall; Craft Stall; Musical Entertainment - and much more! ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF SAINT COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL.

RAPHOE, RAYMOCHY & CLONLEIGH

Vacant, Rural Dean: Rev Canon David Crooks Tel: 074 914 0135 Mob: 00447871974658

Facebook: St Eunan's Cathedral @cathedralraphoe

At the time of writing these notes, a meeting is being organized to arrange the Confirmation classes. This will be held on Sunday afternoon 13th March in the Cathedral Hall. All Parents, Godparents, Sunday School Teachers, and of course, the candidates themselves, are invited to attend. The venue and day and time of the weekly classes will be arranged. There are ten children from Raphoe, five from Clonleigh and six from Raymochy. The candidates from Convoy (six), Donaghmore (one) and Monellan (three) will be taught together, but there will have to be two separate Confirmations because of the large number - it would be difficult to get a large congregation into one church. The Raphoe Group Confirmation will be in the Cathedral on Sunday 12th June at 4.00pm, and the one for Convoy Group in St Ninian's Church, Convoy on Friday 10th June at 7.30pm.

Every good wish to Darryl Gibbons and Amanda Spence as they prepare for their Wedding in the Cathedral on Saturday 23rd April.

Our deepest sympathies are with the family and relatives of Victor Browne from Raymochy Parish whose Funeral was held on New Year's Day. Charlotte Watson was laid to rest on 2nd February in Raphoe Cathedral Graveyard, and Samuel Gibson was laid to rest there on 22nd February. Our sympathies are shared with their families and loved ones. They were each long-standing and absolutely faithful members of their parish, and they will be sorely missed.

A hymn singing organ marathon took place on Sunday 6th March at Clonleigh Parish Church. Our thanks to all the organists who took part, and hopefully a good sum in aid of parish funds will be the result of this effort.

The Annual General Vestry Meetings have been arranged as follows: Raphoe 29th March at 8.00pm, Raymochy 31st March, 8.00pm and Clonleigh 6th April at 8.00pm.

It was deeply disappointing that a Board of Nomination for a new Rector was not called at the last Council. This was because, despite assurances that the Rectory would be fully ready in time for a new Incumbent coming, the work was not yet complete. However, the Council was informed of all the excellent work that has been done both at the Rectory and the Cathedral, and that all three parishes have their finances in good order. The Select Vestries and parishioners are to be highly commended for all their hard effort, and perhaps a Board of Nomination can be authorized at the next Council in May.



DRUMACHOSE, LIMAVADY

Rector - The Reverend Canon Aonghus Mayes

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to parishioners for the warm welcome I've received since I moved to Drumachose. As I said at my Institution, it's a little daunting moving to a new parish following a much loved rector, but the way in which I have been made to feel so welcome has made it that much easier and I'm looking forward to making my home with you in Limavady.

It's been lovely to meet so many parishioners at church already. Those whom I haven't, hopefully I will very soon. And again, as I said at my Institution, please do remember this parish and me in your prayers and I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and months.

Crisis in Ukraine

We have all been shocked by the devastating images coming from Ukraine in the aftermath of the Russian invasion. At the time of writing, in addition to a collection for the Bishops' Appeal response we will be holding a quiz night on Friday 11th March at 8pm to raise funds for the humanitarian response as we continue to remember the people of Ukraine and national leaders in our prayers.

Lent

Our Lenten midweek services continue every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 8.05pm.

Easter & Holy Week Services

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday 11th April
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Hymns & Readings for Palm Sunday
6.00pm Evening Prayer

Holy Week

Monday to Wednesday: 7.30pm Holy Week Reflection
Maundy Thursday: 10.30am Holy Communion & Prayers for the Sick
7.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday

7.30pm Meditation on the Cross and Passion of our Lord

Easter Day

8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion and short address
6.00pm Holy Communion

Annual Easter Vestry

The Annual Easter Vestry will take place this year on Wednesday 6th April at 8.15pm in the Parish Hall following the midweek Lenten service. All parishioners are welcome to attend, although only those who are registered vestry members can stand for election and participate in voting etc.

Private Communion

A number of our parishioners are sick, elderly or house-bound so they cannot get outside

their homes to go shopping, visiting, church etc., To ensure that no one is overlooked when arrangements are being made for Private Communion, if you are housebound and would like Communion for Easter, do not hesitate to contact the Rector to make arrangements.

Confirmation

Confirmation Class will take place on Sunday 5th June at 7pm. Classes continue every Sunday at 10am after which we move across to join parents in church for the service at 11am.

Mothers' Union

At the moment, the Mothers' Union meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm in the Minor Hall. Our next meeting will be our Members' afternoon and in May we hope to arrange an outing to Castlerock Flower Festival. More details to follow.

Bowls

The Bowling Club meets every Monday and Thursday in the Parish Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. New members are always very welcome or even if you just want to come along some evening to have a go there are spare bowls available. You will be more than welcome.

DESERTMARTIN AND TERMONEENY

Rector - Revd Philip Benson
Tel. 028 79632455



The new Rector of Desertmartin and Termoneeny, Rev Philip Benson, led prayers for the people of Ukraine on Friday evening during his Service of Institution in St Comgall's Church in Desertmartin.

The new incumbent was instituted by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, who described it as "a red-letter day" for the parishes. The service marked the end of a vacancy that had lasted over two years,

following the retirement of the previous Rector, Rev Mike Dornan.

As the service drew to a close, Rev Benson gave thanks to God for the peace

that he offered us, and prayed for those living in areas where there was conflict and violence. "So, we commend to your merciful prayer the people and government of Ukraine that being guided by your providence, they may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to their leaders and all in authority wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve their people. And we ask your blessing upon the work of the United Nations and all who seek to build peace."

Earlier in the service, the Preacher, Rev Chris Mac Bruithin - who has known the new incumbent since their student days - disclosed to the congregation in St Comgall's that their new Rector is a Star Trek fan - ("when I say fan I mean fanatic") - is a Leeds United fan and has already 'liked' Desertmartin FC on social media. He also has a quick wit and is very good at puns. "I thought that tonight, in Philip's honour, and in light of our Gospel passage, I might try my hand at some puns. It's a

reading in which branches are bearing fruit and I thought, 'Philip's branching out in the Diocese, he's going out on a limb coming here, but he's landed a plum job.'

Rev Mac Bruithin reminded the new incumbent that God himself had brought him to the Parishes of Desertmartin and Termoneeny to bear fruit, where he would do things in his own way in the skin that God had put him in. "You'll learn very quickly," the preacher told the congregation, "that Philip has a gentle strength and that, in my experience, is a rare thing to come across. Philip has a sincere love of God; he has a genuine love of people and he will love you. He has a knowledge of scripture and he has an ability to teach it, and he has a sensitivity for reconciliation. "Philip, you could have applied those talents and transferred those skills to other careers and made lots of money and made a real success, but you've offered them as a gift to God."

Before instituting the new Rector, Bishop Andrew assured him that "the modesty" of the gathering - the church was still practising

social distancing and sitting in alternating pews - did not reflect the huge welcome that he was getting. "Our prayer tonight, as you begin this new chapter in your life as a family, as you begin this new chapter in your ministry, our prayer tonight is that you will quickly feel at home, that you will know the love of the family of God in these parishes, and you'll know the equipping of the Holy Spirit as a family and as a minister of the Gospel in this place. A Service of Institution is a red-letter day, it's a red-letter day for a parish. It's a day when we look back in thankfulness for all that's gone before, and we look ahead, we look ahead with excitement as to what God plans for us in the future. You know, we're living in challenging times for any church as we move out of the pandemic, and what you will have in your new rector is someone who will help you together to find what it is to renew, rebuild and re-energise the Church of Jesus Christ in these parishes for what we face ahead, with both trepidation but also joy, because this is God's work, and we delight in being part of God's work this night."

GLENDERMOTT & NEW BUILDINGS

Rector: Rev Canon Robert Boyd

Tel: 028 7134 3001

Facebook: Glendermott and New Buildings Church of Ireland



Curate Assistant:
Rev Iain McAleavey





CHRIST CHURCH CASTLEDAWSON

Rev Canon Colin Welsh: Rector and Rural Dean
Tel: 028 7946 8235
Email: colin.welsh@talktalk.net
Facebook: Christ Church Castledawson

Hello everyone, first of all can I thank Canon Paul Whittaker for being an integral part of the n:vision team over the last 15 years and especially for his timely reminders for clergy notes to be submitted. I appreciate the faithfulness you have given to the role. Bless you Canon PW.

The last 2 years have certainly been a tumultuous time, first Covid 19 and now due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, we all face the threat of World War 3, or worse still, a nuclear apocalypse. The things we have witnessed in recent times would have been unimaginable or unthinkable just a short time ago. In fact to be honest, we seem to be living in a long running Hollywood disaster movie with constant media coverage ramping up the sense of fear and trepidation. I recall thinking at the beginning of the pandemic, when we all had to put our church services out online because our church doors were shut, 'Wow! Look how many people are tuning in to church services; perhaps God will use this opportunity to bring many people to himself'.

There's no doubt that many folk were 'seeking' at that time, there were many calls to prayer and as we know, God answered. However, as

things progressed and the world began to open up again and return to some sort of 'normality', that brief rush towards God has seemingly waned. It was as though the world was saying 'Well it hasn't turned out as bad as we thought and sure we've got a vaccine now therefore we don't need God any more, let's get on with life as we did before all this happened'. Now, with the unfolding events in Ukraine causing us further concern, we are once again hearing calls for prayer and people starting to think, 'What if the Russian invasion doesn't stop at Ukraine? What if Putin drops the bomb? Where will it leave us all?' Fear has returned! There is no doubt that we need to be on our knees before Almighty God, crying out to him once again to intervene and bring healing and peace to our world. But let's remember that there is an ongoing battle raging in the heavenly realm for the lives of all people. As the apostle Paul writes: **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** Ephesians 6:12

We all need the power of God to heal our lives and to bring peace to our hearts. How can

this happen? By responding to the Prince of Peace when he speaks into our hearts saying, **Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (for your souls). Matthew 11:28**

Praying to God in times of need is a good thing but knowing God and resting in His Word through a personal relationship with Jesus his Son and living in the power of His Spirit is far, far better because it has eternal ramifications. Let's not just pray for healing or peace so we can get back to the way it was before (without God,) let's pray instead that God would grant true peace and true healing for our souls, the kind that only he can give. Let's pray that the victory would be won in more ways than one!

Easter time is all about victory, the victory won for us by Jesus on the cross of Calvary and His victory over death on that first Easter morning. May we all come to know our need of a 'living hope' (Jesus) and may we be empowered to sing of the victory he has won for us in this life and the next. The peace of the Lord be always with you!

Canon CW



DUNFANAGHY, RAYMUNTERDONEY & TULLAGHOBEGLEY

Rev David Skuce, Rector and Rural Dean, Kilmacrennan East & West Rural Deanery
Facebook: Holy Trinity, Dunfanaghy @holytrinitydunfanaghy

Holy Baptism

30th January, 2022 - Eoin John Swindle-Stewart was baptized in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Dunfanaghy.

Aidan Kelly were married in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Dunfanaghy. 12th February, 2022 - Lisa McCafferty and Paul Dooley were married at St. Ann's Parish Church, Tullaghobegley.

the fellowship of Christ's Church. We wish Aisling and Aidan along with Lisa and Paul every happiness and God's blessing upon them in their future lives together.

Marriage

44th February, 2022 - Aishling Arnold and

We were delighted to welcome Eoin John into

Services for Lent will continue each Wednesday at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity Parish

Church, Dunfanaghy. During Holy Week there will be a service each evening at 8.00pm and on Good Friday there will be a service of Ante-Communion at 10.30am in Holy Trinity Church, Dunfanaghy and at 12 noon at St. Paul's, Raymunderdoney. Our Lenten appeal this year will go towards the 'Jeel al-Amal Boys Home', Bethany. Further details are on the parish Facebook.

I was delighted to take part in an Ecumenical service held at Magheraroarty Community Centre to mark the end of a weekend which looked at the life of St. Columba. Our act of worship was centred on Celtic spirituality, and it reminded us of the importance of creation and our duty to nurture it. There is a very fine line between

this world and the next. In recent years there has been a lot of emphasis on global warming and in particular the use of fossil fuels and their impact.

We have all been shocked and saddened by the unprovoked attack by Russia on Ukraine. The use of missiles and other weapons of war has led to pointless human turmoil.

The images of refugees fleeing in search of a safe place to live, families separated and wondering would they ever see each other again. I hope and pray that this terrible situation will be resolved and, more importantly, to remember in our prayers all those who are suffering as a result of man's inhumanity to man. It is hoped, in the not-

too-distant future, that a "Tractor Run" will be held in aid of our Parish funds.

Plans are getting under way to organise "August Fair 2022" which will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday, August 1st. We are looking forward to the return of this event in the life of our Parish and community. I very much hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy this fun-packed day.

It is great to see the coronavirus restrictions easing and life getting back to some sort of normality. However, it is most important that we realise that some people will still be apprehensive, and we should respect that apprehension.

URNEY AND SION MILLS

Rector: Rev Jonathan McFarland

Facebook: Parish of Urney Christ Church and Church of the Good Shepherd @urneparish



"The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit and contrite heart you will not despise."
Psalm 51:17

We find ourselves surrounded by heart-breaking images of people fleeing Ukraine while their country is being devastated by war. It seems as if the threat that was Covid-19 has been eclipsed by the awful news that fills our news reports from Ukraine each night. The threat of Covid-19 is still real but this catastrophe in Europe has brought a dark cloud of fear to many people. When the invasion broke, I reminded people of the words that we used to encourage one another at the start of Covid-19, 'we are a people of faith, not a people of fear.'

Many people feel that their faith is being tested all over again.

The verse from Psalm 51:17 reminds us how God views our brokenness. He sees the brokenness of this world, with all of the conflicts, greed and the struggle and misery that comes from our sin. When will this burden of brokenness stop?

Psalm 51:17 is quoted at the start of the season of Lent. The readings on Ash Wednesday remind us to turn away from hypocrisy and every temptation to make ourselves look holy. The readings go on to urge us to take the road of true humility and to spend many secret visits to God in prayer.

We cannot fool God with false piety. We all need to take our broken condition to God, to experience his forgiveness and mercy and to pursue true holiness that will be acceptable in His sight. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

As we make our journey towards the cross, towards Easter, let us all leave the burdens of our brokenness and sin at the feet of Christ, and be reminded again of the blood He shed for us. As the old hymn reminds us 'Burdens are lifted at Calvary.'

Yours in Christ
Jonathan

KILREA, TAMLAGHT O'CRILLY UPPER & LOWER

Rector: Rev Gary Millar

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FAHAN UPPER AND LOWER

Rector: Rev Canon Judi McGaffin

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"Cherishing and connecting with all God's children"



As I write this piece I am very aware of many celebrations that we in these parishes have been fortunate to have over the past few months.



In November and again in December the Bishop came to Christ Church to confirm 4 of our young people Jamie, Gareth, Owen and Callum. They were particularly wonderful celebrations as COVID-19 had postponed previous dates!

We celebrated Advent online this year as each night during the Advent season we learned about people and places that

contributed to the story of the coming of Jesus and added symbols to a Jesse tree.



St Mura's National School is busy this year learning about and celebrating God's creation! The young people have just finished reflecting on the 7 days of creation and are now preparing their work for the Bishop's visit in May - yet another reason for celebration!

The young people and staff at the school are also very busy connecting with our online community at PRAISES Time - AND they are creating some amazing pieces of art each week as they learn about God! They have shared

their work with CJ - so that you can see it in the CJ section of this edition of n:vision!

Looking forward - we in the parish and in the school are, during Lent this year taking on a 40 day challenge! We will also be thinking about God's creation and how we can look after it for this and future generations.

We are looking forward to celebrating Easter online and in church for the first time in 2 years and there, I am sure, will be lots more celebrating to be done before the next edition of n:vision!!!

We hope that you are able to keep in touch with all that is happening in these parishes on our Facebook page [fahanandbuncranachurchofireland](https://www.facebook.com/fahanandbuncranachurchofireland) for further information and of course join with us when you can!

Online services are at 8am on a Sunday, 7pm on a Wednesday and 10am on a Saturday. There is a "telephone service" on 00353749390190 and we are back in church on Sundays - 10.30am in Christ Church Buncrana and 12 noon in St Mura's Fahan.

FAUGHANVALE

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If you've ever visited an underground cave, such as the Marble Arch caverns in Fermanagh, you'll know that you get so acclimatised to being in the dark that when you emerge out into the daylight world again, it takes a while to adjust. In a way, the Church has become acclimatised to living with the dark conditions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and is now

in a period of readjustment. It has been difficult to plan anything with any degree of certainty, but, thankfully, we are now able to begin arranging events in which we hope people will feel confident to participate, and that will rebuild the sense of community in our church. Please feel welcome to join us for any or all of the following:

8:30am Holy Communion which is recommencing on 1st Sunday in March and will then take place on the first Sunday of each month

Daybreak Service at 10am on 27th March and then monthly as announced. This 30-minute service is particularly intended for families with young children but everyone is welcome. There will also be a normal 11am service as usual that Sunday.

JAM children's activity each Sunday except when Daybreak takes place. We hope that JAM will already have reopened by the time you read this but please check on the parish website or Facebook page.

Good Friday 15th March 11am Service for all ages.

Easter Sunday Communion 11am. We hope that it will also be possible to have the Easter Dawn Service, which has had to be cancelled for the past two years. Please listen out for details.

Cinema Group - Everyone is welcome to join us for the cinema visit on 8 March to see "The Duke", a highly recommended comedy, or for any of our monthly viewings.

Parish Outing - taking in the magnificent Mount Stewart Gardens and Newtownards on a Saturday after Easter. Full details shortly.

Please note that the Rector plans to be away at the Diocesan Clergy Conference 14-16 March but can still be contacted in case of emergency. Also, remember that the clock is due to go forward on Sunday 27 March, so you will have an hour less in bed!

And finally, some bloopers seen in church magazines...

"Eight new robes are needed for the choir due to the addition of new members and the deterioration of the older ones."

"At the Golden Hour this month, Mrs Crutchfield sang, The Lord Knows Why."

"Diane and John request your presents at their wedding."

STRANORLAR, MEENGLASS & KILTEEVOGUE

Rector: Rev Adam Pullen

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By the time you read this Seven candidates will have been confirmed by Bishop Andrew. Three from Stranorlar Parish and four from Kiltveeogue Parish. We pray that the Holy Spirit will confirm in them the promises they make, as they take this next step of faith and life.

It is a welcome reminder that we are returning to a new normal. I have quoted, and it has often been quoted, the Chinese proverb 'may you live in interesting times'. We are certainly living in interesting and uncertain times. While many may like to think the Covid-19 Pandemic is over, it is not over. We are in the beginning of the end of this pandemic and I know from my old profession of microbiology that the virus can still throw us a few curve balls!

At the time of writing this we hear of the invasion and brutality in the Ukraine and the uncertainty that is thrown up for the Ukrainians and for Europe. We are shocked

that we seem to have gone back to a time of terror and violence.

Yet in the midst of this, when you come to read this, we will be on the cusp of Easter. The Hope that we have in, through and because of Jesus, is that even death is conquered. While preparing for a sermon, I was reading and praying through this passage "Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."... Matthew 16: 17-19

I love Peter. He is my favourite disciple. He is so human and, while we have more technology and science than ever before, the one thing that has not changed is human nature! Peter, on the one hand, is so enthusiastic and positive.

We would all love to be like him, but on the other hand he puts his foot in his mouth, gets it wrong and spectacularly so. On occasion he even heads off in the wrong direction when the cock crowed three times. Yet Jesus loves him and calls him back and forgives him and redeems him. This, for me, is so encouraging and gives me hope. What we see in these few words from Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, is that he is saying that Simon puts his hope, his faith, his trust in Him so much so that Jesus is his rock. Yes, he stumbles, he falls, but he gets back up and onto the rock. It seems to me that Simon is Peter the rock standing on the Rock, the foundation that is Jesus.

Jesus will build His Church so that not even the gates of hell or Covid19 or an invasion will prevail against it. This is the Hope that we have in Jesus. May Jesus, as He did with Peter, call us, redeem us and affirm us as we stand on the Rock, the Foundation, the Cornerstone, Jesus our Saviour, this Easter. Amen

CLOONEY

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Curate-Assistant:
Rev Andrea Cotter



CONVOY, MONELLAN & DONAGHMORE

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At the time of writing these notes, a meeting is being organized to arrange the Confirmation classes for both Raphoe and Convoy Groups. This will be held on Sunday afternoon 13th March in the Cathedral Hall, Raphoe. All Parents, Godparents, Sunday School Teachers, and of course, the candidates themselves, are invited to attend. The venue and day and time of the weekly classes will be arranged. The candidates from Convoy (six), Donaghmore (one) and Monellan (three) will be taught together with those from Raphoe, Raymochy and Clonleigh, but there will have to be two separate Confirmations, because of the large number - it would be difficult to get a large congregation into one church. The Raphoe Group Confirmation will be in the Cathedral on Sunday 12th June at 4.00pm, and the

one for Convoy Group in St Ninian's Church, Convoy on Friday 10th June at 7.30pm.

Congratulations and best wishes to Greg Stewart and Kathy Lindsay who were married in St Ninian's Church on 28th December.

Our very deepest sympathies to all the family and friends of Tracy Galbraith whose Funeral Service was held in St Ninian's Church on 18th December.

The Annual General Vestry meetings have been organized as follows: Monellan, Monday 4th April, 6.30pm, Donaghmore, 4th April 8.15pm, Convoy Thursday 7th April, 8.00pm.

The Rev Arthur Burns will be out of action for some months. We thank him very much for

all his work in Convoy Group in conducting Services.

A full service rota has been drawn up to the end of June - you will see that our old friend Rev David Griscome has kindly agreed to celebrate the Holy Communion on Easter Day, 17th April, and that Mrs Norma Burns will be available on some Sundays.

Many congratulations to Mrs Pearl Barnett upon being awarded with a silver salver to acknowledge her work in raising money in Donegal for the work of the Royal British Legion. This is a wonderful achievement in support of a most worthy cause.

INVER, MOUNTCHARLES, KILAGHTEE & KILLYBEGS

Rector - Vacant Tel: 074 973 6013
In Charge during the Vacancy - Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe
Tel: 074 9721075

The parish bid a sad farewell to the Revd Lindsey Farrell along with Keith and the children as they left for Maguiresbridge & Derrybrusk in January. In just over three years in the parish, Revd Lindsey did wonderful work and her efforts on behalf of the parishioners are greatly appreciated.

We wish her and the family every blessing in their new home.

During the vacancy, Sunday cover will be provided by lay readers and visiting clergy and pastoral cover will be provided by neighbouring clergy. In the first place

any enquiry should be directed to me, Archdeacon David Huss, in Donegal Town (074 9721075).

I would encourage all parishioners to continue to attend worship and to support their parish in every way during the period

of vacancy. Thank you for all the positive cooperation and good work that is going on. Please also pray for the process of appointing a new rector for the parishes.

Almighty God, the giver of every good

gift, look graciously, we beseech thee, on thy Church, and so guide with thy heavenly wisdom the minds of those to whom is committed the choice of a minister for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who shall feed thy flock according to thy will,

and make ready a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord. Amen.

With every blessing,
David Huss

DUNGIVEN & BOVEVAGH

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'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up' Galatians 6 v 9

I can claim no credit for this, alas I wish I could. Apparently it was written by a University student. It had a profound effect on me.

'Creation in Reverse'.

Man said 'Let there be power.' And there was power, and man saw that the power looked good. He called those who sought power 'great leaders'. The evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Then man said, 'Let there be a division among all peoples and divide those who are for my power from those who are against my power.' And it was so. The hostile people he called 'them' and the friendly people he called 'us.' The evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Then man said, 'Let us gather our power together in one place and create one empire of control - brain-washing and

indoctrination to control man's mind, militia and secret police to control man's behaviour, myths and symbols to control man's emotions.' And it was so. The evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Then man said, 'Let there be censorship to divide the propaganda from the truth.' And he made two great offices, one to write the news for those at home and the other to write the news for those abroad. And it was so. The evening and the morning were the third day.

Then man said, 'Let us make weapons of destruction which can destroy every form of life that moves on the face of the earth and the sea.' So man made weapons of war, missiles and bombs, lethal germs and chemicals. The evening and the morning were the second day.

Then man said 'Let us make God in our own image and let him take the blame for the suffering we shall cause.' So man made God

in his own image, in the image of man created he them. And he said, 'Rampage unfettered and extend your dominion over all the earth. Shatter the peace, rape the environment, exploit, oppress and kill.' So man saw all that he had made and beheld it was very, very bad. There was evening and there was morning - the last day.

It caused me to stop and think, it should bring us to our knees in prayer to God. As Christians we are called to do more than 'tut' in disapproval at the state of things. We are God's agents for change, sharing the life of Jesus, turning the world around.

Emerging from the casualty of COVID, let it be our challenge to seek God for the part that he has appointed each of us to play in that enormous plan, with our own parishes and communities as the starting point.

CUMBER UPPER, CUMBER LOWER, BANAGHER AND LEARMOUNT

Rector: Rev David Slater

Tel: 028 7133 8214

Facebook: [Cumber Upper & Lower, Learmount, Banagher Group of Parishes](#)





BALTEAGH, CARRICK, TAMLAGHTARD AND AGHANLOO

Rector: Rev Rhys Jones

Facebook: Aghanloo, Balteagh, Caarrick and Tamlaghtard @TamlaghtardCofI

It's car crash TV isn't it? The indiscriminate horrors of Ukraine hold us spellbound and few among us but can find the will to tear ourselves away. War, global pandemic, economic hardship and political turmoil...it might seem that life & the world are spiralling out of control. Throughout our lives each of us will experience the conflict of hardship in one form or the other. Each of us will endure our own personal Gethsemane. All will know adversity, trial, and loss. Regardless of whatever turmoil we might face, Lent and Easter offer a chance to re-calibrate. They offer the chance to return to God and to re-affirm our foundational trust in the God of the Cross and the God of the empty tomb. In these uncertain days we must remember that for the disciples, Christ's arrest and death were as tumultuous as the pandemic we have just endured or the unfolding injustice of Ukraine. But the story doesn't end there for them or for us. Perhaps Psalm 46 might again encourage us to gather firstly at the Cross and to then journey onward to the victory of the empty tomb, and to realise afresh that for God all things are possible and that God is in control...

and to find there our peace and our hope despite the world's afflictions. The psalmist writes "*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*"

This Easter, may God bless you with the stillness of his nearness and his perfect peace. Happy Easter everyone. Rev Rhys.

The Monday Club is a new venture held at the Rectory on the first Monday of the month from 10.30am - 12 noon that aims to bring parishioners & friends together in fellowship and chat over tea and coffee. Everyone welcome.

Ukraine Appeal

Megan's appeal to help the displaced children of Ukraine gathered wonderful support across all four parishes and beyond and the items donated have now been sent to their point of need. On behalf of Megan and myself thank you one and all for your compassionate kindness. And well done indeed!

Carrick Development Projects

A year-long series of fund-raising ventures and events have begun in Carrick Parish in order to

further its outreach and development within the community. These are proceeding nicely and all are encouraged to play an active and committed part in developing our parish. If you'd like to help, please contact me via the usual means.

Mid-Week Lenten Services

These have been wonderfully supported and I am deeply grateful and encouraged! Details of our worship on April 6th and during Holy Week and Easter Sunday are included in your April edition of the Parish Magazine. Please do support your parish church by planning to attend throughout. Thank you.

Bible Study - with a difference

Our time of study and fellowship resumes at the Rectory on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm. Our previous time of study was really well attended and I do hope each of you can join me again as we continue to explore our faith together. Everyone welcome.



TAUGHBOYNE WITH CRAIGDOOISH, ALL SAINTS & KILLEA

Rev Canon David Crooks: Rector and Rural Dean

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Sophia, daughter of Oisín and Tory Devenney was baptized in All Saints' Church on Sunday 23rd January.

Every good wish to Rachel Pollock and Johnny Kee as they prepare for their Wedding in Raphoe Cathedral on Saturday 11th June.

Perhaps there is now light at the end of the tunnel as Covid-19 restrictions ease, though we still have to be careful. This means that the common chalice at Holy Communion

will not be usable for the foreseeable future. We are now able again to sing hymns, and a big "thank you" to Dougie Nesbitt and Elma Pearson for providing sacred music before services, enriching worship considerably during this period.

All the details of services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter have been issued. The Select Vestry meetings to revise the list of General Vestrymen have been held. The Easter Annual General Vestry meetings, which can now be held before Easter have been scheduled as

follows: Taughboyne/Craigadooish. Monday 28th March 8.00pm at the Rectory; Killea, Tuesday 5th April in the Hall at 8.00pm. At the meeting of All Saints on Ash Wednesday the Easter AGM date was arranged and new Trustees for the Hall appointed.

I hope that during Lent, we can think deeply about our spiritual lives and about our relationship with God, and our commitment to his Church. Please do attend the Wednesday evening services.



TAMLAGHTFINLAGAN & MYROE

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A very warm welcome to Canon Aonghus Mayes to our neighbouring parish of Christ Church, Limavady.

As Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed we hope to be able to begin to return to a new kind of "normal". I am very grateful for the support which our parishioners have given the parish during the pandemic.

Our Sunday School has re-commenced and we are very encouraged by the number of young people attending. Our Confirmation

class is a little larger than usual with over twenty candidates awaiting the Confirmation Service on Sunday 3rd April. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Andrew on this occasion.

Outside the rectory there are still pockets of snowdrops and a few brave daffodils are dotted in sheltered spots, all signs of Spring, with longer sunlight days and hopefully warmer days too.

Sadly, on the TV there is news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts and prayers

are with the Ukrainian people at this terrible time.

Easter is coming and with it our hope is renewed as we celebrate the finished work of our Saviour. We are the resurrection people and it will be marvellous to have our dawn service on Easter Sunday.

Happy Easter.

CLONDEVADDOCK, ROSSNAKILL, PORTSALON & LEATBEG

Vacant
Rural Dean: Rev David Skuce

GWEEDORE (CARRICKFINN & BUNBEG) & TEMPLECRONE

Bishop's Curate: Rev Liz Fitzgerald
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It is quite mesmerising to think it is now two years since life as we knew it, turned upside-down. Instead of "going out to a day's work," we stayed at home; instead of cutting down on screen time, it increased; instead of gathering for worship, we huddled round an iPad or the TV.

In springtime we have that spectacular change of season - the trees begin to bud,

bulbs peep through the soil and our golden daffodils appear. I wonder how many of us would have coped with the sudden spectacular change that occurred on the first Easter Sunday.

No one had ever experienced anything quite like it. There had been small clues - Jesus had raised the widow's son in the

Continued on page 52...



Continued from page 51...

village of Nain; he raised the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue; he raised Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha in Bethany after he had been dead for four days.

Sudden spectacular change:

The crowds who cheered Jesus into Jerusalem, and then shouted for his crucifixion. Those to whom he showed love, mocked, and jeered. The crowds who came to Jesus for help and healing, came to watch as he was flogged and crucified. He gave his life on the cross; he died; he was buried in the tomb of a stranger. And on the third day - sudden and

spectacular change. On the third day he rose again. Conquering death, giving hope, giving a promise of life forever and for all. And we too can experience that sudden and spectacular change as we bear witness to the risen Lord. Allow your life to be engulfed by the love of God, on your journey of hope, toward Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Another spectacular change is being able to announce services for Holy week - in church and in person.

Holy Week Services

Wednesday 13th April - 8 pm, Evening Prayer, St Andrew's Church, Carrickfinn

Maundy Thursday, 14th April - 8pm, Holy Communion, St Crone's Parish Church, Dungloe

Good Friday, 15th April - 8pm, Reading of the Passion, St Patrick's Parish Church, Bunbeg

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Easter Day in each of the churches at the usual time.

*Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed.
Alleluia!*

**CHRIST CHURCH, CULMORE,
MUFF AND ST. PETER**

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Spring is a season of potential. The new life is stirring in our gardens and *Spring Watch* and *Countryfile*, if nothing else, remind us of new life. It is also a season in the Church when our minds turn to new life. The season of Lent has begun and it was traditionally a time when the new believers prepared for Baptism; it was also the season when Christians who had fallen short were restored to the fellowship of the Church. Easter has at its heart God's greatest transformation when Jesus was raised from the dead - the empty tomb the proclamation of his victory over sin and death and the first fruit of the eternal life promised to every Christian.

As it is my firm belief that Easter holds hope for the world, I embarked on the

Walled City Passion as a way to reach out to our world with this message. Our group of parishes is at the forefront of an exciting collaboration with writer Jonathan Burgess and TV producer Paul McKay to stage a Passion play on the City Walls.

The ministry opportunity for us and all local churches is that we use this production to reintroduce ourselves to our local community and that we remind people that the Christian message is one of hope, forgiveness and new life. I plan in the weeks following Easter to help us as a parish group to reach out. Please begin to pray about how you might like to be involved.

As we remember the hope of the empty tomb on Easter Day, we are thankful for

the message it speaks to us when we face bereavement. The death of a former Rector can be a sad time for those who were cared for under their ministry. This is most certainly the case with the death of Bishop Brian Hannon. We remember Maeve and the family circle in our prayers and we give thanks to God for their ministry as a family and Brian's ministry as Rector of Christ Church, in particular.

May I wish you a happy and Blessed Easter season.



MOVILLE, GREENCASTLE, DONAGH, MALIN & CULDAFF

Bishop's Curate - Rev Alan McCracken

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Facebook: [Moville Upper and Lower Donagh, Cloncha, and Culdaff](#)

As I am preparing these notes the country is bracing itself for the arrival of storm Eunice. Schools and colleges across the country have made the decision to close and everyone was advised to baton down the hatches. When storm Eunice arrived, the Met Eireann got it right. Watching from my office window in the Rectory overlooking Lough Foyle the wind was howling and the sea was roaring. Looking at the roaring sea reminded me of the famous Bible passage when Jesus calmed the storm, (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25). When Jesus calms the storm, we are encouraged every day that God is also with us in the middle of the storms of life. As the storm of Covid-19 is starting to ease my vision for the Moville group of parishes brings some great news.

I begin with the news of Parish reader ministry - members of the parishes have

come forward with a strong vocation for Parish reader ministry. After their training parish readers have an important voluntary role in assisting the minister during services. This ministry is important to this group of parishes as there are five churches within the group and three services each Sunday.

Also, over the next few weeks our Parish children's ministry will start up again, to teach our young people about the life of Jesus and his ministry. The children within the parishes are excited that Sunday School is commencing once again. Looking forward there are exciting times ahead for the Moville group of parishes. All details of services and events can be found on our Facebook page, Moville Upper and Lower, Donagh, Cloncha and Culdaff.

Since my commencement of Bishop's Curate-in-Charge there have been four

young people Confirmed, Cara McCarron Hardie Allan, Violet Bredin, Tara McLaughlin, and Stewart Norris. The service was conducted on 19th September 2021 by The Right Rev Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe.

I also would like to congratulate Kerry Smyth and Mark Henry on their marriage at St Columb's Church Moville on 29th December 2021.

Finally, our condolences to the family of the late Mervyn Kirkland who entered into God's care on 14th December 2021 and was interned 18th December at St Columb's Church Moville.

Yours in Christ
Revd Alan McCracken

KILLOWEN (COLERAINE)

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"May we show Christ's love + teach his Word."





AGHADOWEY

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In both the #MeToo movement and in the resurrection stories from all four gospels, women are the credible witnesses. They deliver shocking news to doubtful people. Even though the disciples have no reason to be suspicious of these particular women who have travelled with them for quite some time now, women in general were not considered credible witnesses at this point in history. The testimony of women wasn't even admissible in court under Jewish law. There was a patriarchal culture and women had no public credibility, and yet God chooses women as the first witnesses of the resurrection! God chooses Mary Magdalene to preach the very first Easter sermon. Women are the last people standing at

the foot of the cross and the first people to receive the good news at the empty tomb.

Social progress nearly always depends upon people willing to keep their hope alive, regardless of the costs associated with it. Famous inventors whom we laud today were at first ridiculed for believing they could create or do something no one had ever mastered before. History is full of people who endured suffering and even death as they kept their hope in change alive. Mary Magdalene's reputation still carries the cost of offering hope to us all that first Easter morning. As I write this we are watching the destruction of a sovereign nation, a nation of Christians being killed and left without homes

and it must grieve God's heart that He gave His Son to save us and we continue to inflict so much pain on one another. I will just finish with an invitation to prayer.

Let us pray: *O Lord we commend to your merciful care the people and government of Ukraine that, being guided by your providence, they may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to President Zelenskyy, and all in Ukraine, wisdom and strength for the days ahead. Bless all who mourn that they would know You know their pain. Fill them with Your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



ERRIGAL & DESERTOGHILL (GARVAGH)

Rector: Rev Carmen Hayes
Tel: 028 2955 8226
Facebook: St. Pauls Church of Ireland, Garvagh

Fed up with the state of life in general and indeed the state of the world that was around him, there was this one man who decided that he was going to change things, beginning with the world. However, before too long, he discovered that the world was too big for one person to change. So, he decided to change his country instead. Only to discover that crooked politicians and special interest groups unfortunately thwarted his efforts.

So, he decided that maybe his neighbourhood was a better place to start. But his neighbours simply closed their doors and shut their windows on him. So, he decided to change his family.

However, instead of changing, his children rebelled, and his wife threatened a divorce, and things only got worse. Finally, the man decided to change himself. And he did so by asking the Lord Jesus into his life and when he did that, guess what? Not only did he change himself, but the world around him also began to change and 'do well!' And I'm telling you because...

Because on Sunday 27th February, it was the Confirmation Service in St. Paul's Garvagh and to help us celebrate this momentous occasion in the lives of the ten candidates, I ordered a large cake for sharing after the Service. The very helpful young shop assistant checked my order by saying, "White icing, the words Confirmation 2022 in blue icing, and sprinkles around the sides!"

I confirmed that what she had said was correct by replying, "do well!" However, I could do no less than have a giggle to myself when I lifted the lid to discover the "DO WELL!" in large print had made it onto my cake. On the day, everyone enjoyed both the story and the cake.

That said, the more thought I've given it, the more appropriate I actually believe



the "Do Well!" message could actually be in the candidates lives. You see, it's one thing to stand before the Bishop at a Confirmation and have him pray the magic words over you, Confirm, O Lord with

your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue to be yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until he/she comes to your eternal kingdom. But it's another thing all together to give the

Holy Spirit within, the permission to change and transform you and the world around you, for that's how you, "DO WELL!" just like the man in my first wee story was to discover!

CONWAL UNION WITH GARTAN

Rector: Rev David Houlton

Facebook: The Parish of Conwal Union @ConwalParish



Associate Priest:

Rev Heather Houlton



For the historical record, like many parishes we were wrong-footed (in a good way!) by the sudden removal of most Covid restrictions in late January 2022.

Both churches had been able to have something more like a normal Christmas despite the restrictions on congregational singing and requirement for masks and distancing. Conwal was blessed by a group of professional singers who were very keen to at least sing something at Christmas. One of them remarked that they normally sing Christmas carols, but in secular venues, so actually singing in a Christmas Carol Service in a church was rather a homecoming for them! Unfortunately, Gartan's Big Dip had to be cancelled at New Year due to the rapidly increasing incidence of Covid-19 locally but, happily it was rescheduled for St Patrick's Day!

Just before the start of Lent we had our first post-service social at Conwal which was much appreciated by the many people who came out for the first time in a while. And now in Lent we are turning our minds towards Easter celebrations, and preparing the children of both parishes for Bishop Andrew's visit for their confirmation on May Day.

We rejoice with the parents of those baptised recently: Amelia; Matthew, Mark and Martin. We celebrate with their families the marriages this spring of: Nicole Russell & Eric Moore, and Chloe Moore & Kyle Strain. And sadly we mourn with the family and friends of May Dobson; a very long standing member of Conwal Parish.

Plans for Easter:

10th April: Palm Sunday Services in both churches

11-13 April: 7.30pm Holy Week Compline in Conwal Church

14th April: 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion in Conwal Church
8.30pm Gartan Maundy Thursday Communion

15th April: 2.00pm An Hour at the Cross in Conwal Church

17th April: 10.30am Family Easter Communion - Conwal Church
12.30pm: Family Easter Communion - St Columba's Church

MAGHERA & KILLELAGH

Vacant

www.magheraparish.co.uk

ST. TIDA'S, PARISH OF BALLYSCULLION, BELLAGHY

NSM in Charge: Rev Brian Hassan



In these dark days as war has returned to Europe we pray for the people of Ukraine in the hope of a positive outcome. Ballyscullion will journey through Lent by studying the Prayers of Jesus and it was great to conduct an Ash Wednesday service after missing last year through lockdown.

Also Ballyscullion have some excitement ahead as three candidates continue in their

training for Confirmation, the first in my three years as Priest-in-Charge in Bellaghy. With trial and error we are beginning to use our new technology in the church. We have erected screens and are slowly getting to use them to add to our worship.

Thank you Paul for editing the parish notes for n:vision for so many years. Whoever takes over Ballyscullion wishes them every success.

Events

Lenten Bible Study each Wednesday
Maundy Thursday HC
Good Friday The Passion Narratives
Easter Day HC
Easter Annual Vestry date TBC
Confirmation Classes continue
Confirmation Service 22 May
Children's Day 19 June

KILCRONAGHAN, BALLYNASCREEN TOBERMORE & SIX TOWNS

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My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
In 1834 Edward Mote wrote a hymn that has continued to speak into countless lives, at different moments in the history of this world. As we watch the news reports coming out of the Ukraine, we see the words of Mote's hymn: 'My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,' very powerfully displayed in the lives of Ukrainian Christians, who kneel amongst the rubble to pray. Surrounded by war and violence, they turn to the only One they can trust to bring them through their period of hardship and trial. As we watch on, with hearts that long to see an end to this dreadful situation, we too must find hope in those words which remind us that, it was into a world like ours that Jesus was born. It was into a world like ours, with all its sin and fears and horror, that Jesus came to take the source of all these things to the cross. And it was a world like ours, that awoke that first Easter morning to the incredible news that, none of the horror of

the preceding days had any permanent power at all. Which is why Edward Mote wrote:

*When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

*When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.*

This Easter, may we each continue to hold on to our wonderful resurrection hope, as we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine, and for God's peace to reign over that entire region. May we write the words of 1 Peter 1:3-9 on our hearts, as we Praise God for a living hope:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Lord lives.....Alleluia!

ARDSTRAW, BARONSCOURT, BADONEY UPPER & LOWER AND GREENAN

Rector: Rev Ivan Dinsmore

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CAPPAGH & LISLIMNAGHAN

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Just as the world begins to slowly recover from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic we now find Europe caught up in a major crisis. The scenes coming out of Ukraine at present are heart-breaking, as frightened women and children flee their homes, leaving behind husbands, fathers and sons to defend their country against the approaching enemy. From a safe distance we watch on in horror, shock and disbelief - all we can do is cry out to God to intervene, and pray that world leaders can use their influence to restore peace and avert further death and destruction.

Thankfully Spring is a time for hope and optimism, for after the dark and dreary days of winter the mornings and evenings are getting noticeably brighter, and everywhere around us we begin to notice signs of new

life. Spring contains Easter - that time of year when we remember with thankfulness that Jesus defeated sin and death on the cross, and because He lives, we too can gain eternal life through faith in Him.

Recently I read the story of a Hungarian countess, a professed unbeliever, who commanded that following her death, her body should be interred in a stone casket and placed in a mausoleum that was to be built around it. A plate was to be placed in front of the mausoleum giving her name and some particulars of her death, and then the words, "Not to be opened for eternity." This foolish woman would defy God to raise her from the dead. But while the mausoleum was being built and before her casket was sealed in the tomb, an acorn dropped into the mausoleum, and today there is an oak tree rising out of the

centre of it. The ornate tomb is broken and the casket exposed. It was opened by an acorn under the hand of Almighty God.

The moral of the story is that you cannot thwart God: you cannot hinder His mighty working. On Good Friday Pilate said, "Make the tomb as secure as you know how," So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. (Matthew 27 v 65-66). The authorities did everything possible to keep the body of Jesus in that grave in Jerusalem. All their efforts were overthrown. On Easter morning He who yielded Himself to death, received His life back again by the glory of the Father.

Christ is risen Happy Easter.

DRUMRAGH & MOUNTFIELD

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When we begin a journey, we usually have a destination in mind. Often those journeys are routine, familiar and perhaps even mundane. The school run every morning, the trip to the shop, the commute to work. This year, our journey through Lent towards Easter will perhaps

feel familiar as we welcome the return of in-person Lent services, new opportunities for outreach and relaxed freedom around meeting together. That said, the familiar readings which we will hear over the coming weeks, combined with the established patterns of reflection and repentance, must

never be allowed to simply become routine or mundane. Instead, this Lent, as we remember Jesus in the wilderness, let us commit afresh to journeying towards the cross with hearts which are contrite and wills which are resolved to seeking, receiving

Continued on page 58...

Continued from page 57...

and living in the perfect forgiveness which Christ offers each one of us who comes to him in repentant faith, seeking his presence and purpose in our lives. May each of us grow in holiness this Lent, and in hopefulness as we look to the cross and empty tomb of Easter.

Lent Services

Each Wednesday evening during Lent St Columba's and Omagh Methodist Church will be joining together for worship and teaching as Rev Graham Hare and Rev Eleanor Hayden share from Psalm 23. On Thursday 14th April the congregations will enjoy a shared Agape Meal in St Columba's Hall, including Holy Communion. There is no charge for this meal, although you are required to sign up. Everyone, of all ages, is very welcome so please bring your family along.

Good Friday: Service at St Columba's 8pm.

Easter Day: Service at St Columba's 10.30am and Mountfield 12 noon.

33:3 Prayer Initiative

The Lord promises in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know". This Lent, we are not focussing on what we can GIVE UP, instead we are asking each other to STAND UP. As we stand up together in an effort to pray for our town, at 3.33pm each weekday afternoon, we will pray for each of the 33 districts in our parish, one each day from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. Please keep an eye on our parish Facebook page for photographs highlighting the various districts, each with specific prayer points.

Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Sunday 19th

June. Anyone who is interested in taking this significant step should contact the Rector as soon as possible.

Walk and Talk

At Drumragh we have formed a new walking group which has already had a few outings. If you enjoy a dander and a chat, (and the occasional cup of coffee along the way), then why not join us on a Thursday morning? The location changes from week to week so keep an eye on our Facebook page for details.

The parishioners of Drumragh Parish extend their gratitude to Canon Paul Whittaker as he steps-down from his role as parish notes editor of n:vision. This magazine is a valuable source of connection and communication for many people and we are thankful to Canon Paul for his dedication and energy.

EDENDERRY & CLANABOGAN

Rev Canon Robert Clarke: Rector and Rural Dean

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*Christ for sickness, Christ for health,
Christ for poverty, Christ for wealth,
Christ for joy, Christ for sorrow,
Christ today and Christ tomorrow;
Christ my Life, and Christ my Light,
Christ for morning, noon and night,
Christ when all around gives way
Christ my everlasting stay.*

*Christ my rest, and Christ my food,
Christ above my highest good.
Christ my well-beloved friend
Christ my pleasure without end;
Christ my Saviour, Christ my Lord
Christ my portion, Christ my God.
Christ my shepherd, I His sheep,
Christ Himself my soul to keep.*

*Christ my leader, Christ my peace,
Christ has won my soul's release.
Christ my righteousness divine
Christ for me - yes, He is mine;
Christ my wisdom, Christ my meat,
Christ restores my wandering feet.
Christ my advocate and priest
Christ who never forgets the least.*

*Christ my teacher, Christ my guide,
Christ my rock, in Christ I hide.
Christ the ever-living bread,
Christ His precious blood has shed.
Christ has brought me near to God,
Christ the everlasting Word.*

Christ my Master, Christ my Head,

*Christ who for my sins has bled;
Christ my Glory, Christ my Crown,
Christ the King of great renown.
Christ my Comforter on high.
Christ my Hope, forever nigh.
Amen*

Ukraine

We continue to pray for the innocent souls who are enduring much pain and hardship in Ukraine, seeking an end to such cold-blooded, barbaric aggression on the part of Russia. We pray that Putin's plans may be thwarted and that peace may once again prevail where God intends it to be.

CLONDEHORKEY, CASHEL & MEVAGH

Vacant

DRUMCLAMPH & CLARE, LANGFIELD UPPER & LOWER

Rector: Rev Robert G. Keogh

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Safeguarding Trust

Thousands of children visit Church of Ireland premises for worship and other social, educational and recreational purposes each week. The Church's ministry to them is a priority for the Church and it is only possible because of the voluntary commitment of adults who are prepared to take responsibility for children in their care. *Safeguarding Trust: the Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children is designed to protect and to enhance that ministry.*

Safeguarding Trust: the Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children is designed to enable all parties within the Church of Ireland to fulfil their proper responsibilities within this ministry:

- To create a safe environment which will promote healthy and fulfilling participation of children in spiritual, educational and recreational activities and minimise the possibility of harm,

either deliberate or accidental.

- To encourage safe practices for those who work with children.
- To set out the appropriate responses and procedures in the event of accident or abuse taking place.
- To safeguard those who work with children from the consequences of unfounded accusations.
- There are details of the Parish Panel members on the church notice boards throughout the parish.

Soon we celebrate Easter. Why? The reason is clear. The Cross and Resurrection constitute a defining moment in human history and a weekend that has changed the world. The world has never been the same since that first Good Friday and Easter morning. I wonder if we have ever considered that because of the Easter events the following statements are true.....

1. In the meaningless of life a reason for living can be found.

2. In the depth of despair there is someone who can lift us up.
3. In the darkness of death there is comfort for the hurting.
4. In the loneliness of suffering there is someone who understands.
5. The Cross of Christ and His Resurrection deal with the greatest problems facing the human race.

Such convictions are meaningless without Easter. They are as empty as the inside of an Easter egg if Jesus Christ did not die, and they are utterly misguided if the Resurrection did not take place. Enjoy our Easter services in the knowledge that the Risen Christ IS with us. Celebrate and give thanks for all He has done.

Ukraine

Remember Ukraine in your prayer list that the Russian aggression will not succeed and that Ukraine will remain a free and democratic country.





CAMUS-JUXTA-MOURNE (STRABANE)

Rector: Rev John White

Facebook: Christ Church, Strabane @ChristChurchStrabane

Our Vision... 'Preach the Word... be shaped by the Word'.

What a time we're living through. Just when it seemed like the pandemic is easing and some semblance of normality is returning, we are now faced with the threat of nuclear war! So, as we enter Lent, Holy Week and the great celebration of Easter this year, we are reminded more than ever of how much our world needs the Lord. That is why it is so important we understand what is happening in our world.

As 1 Chronicles 12:32 so aptly says, 'from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command'.

Yes, these are concerning times. Yet, this is also an opportune season. With all the ugly storm clouds in our world today, the one sure hope we can hold onto is the one we are about to celebrate. For on that Good

Friday when Jesus died, Satan and the forces of evil seemed to have won the day. But that's Friday ... Sunday's coming!

So, if the last couple of years have taught us anything, it's that things are not always what they seem.

Our hopes and dreams of everyday life turned out to be much more fragile than we could ever have imagined - the coronavirus and the situation in Ukraine have taught us that. The reality is that the only TRUE hope, the only CERTAIN hope, the ONLY hope that doesn't disappoint is the one found in Christ and in Christ alone.

As Easter draws closer, the message of the Gospel - that forgiveness is available through Christ's death on the Cross - gives you and me hope of a new life through His resurrection.

As the old gospel hymn puts it so well:
*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near.*

*The last verse of that hymn reads,
Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice
and sing. Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the
King. The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of
all who find. None other is so loving, so good
and kind.*

That's the reason we have hope in the face of the darkness that is presently covering our world. This Easter, let's make sure we celebrate all that Christ has done!

DONAGHEADY

Vacant

Rev Canon Paul Whittaker (Rural Dean)

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We continue to manage without an Incumbent due to the sterling work of the Churchwardens and the Select Vestry. The position has now been advertised and the parochial nominators have met with the Bishop and the Diocesan Board of Nomination so the appointment process is now up and running.

We are also deeply indebted to those who cover our vacancy, to the Rural Dean for his pastoral care and the Revd Ken McLaughlin and Mrs Kaye Nesbitt leading our worship on Sundays.

We are planning a service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and a Good Friday Reflection in Holy Week. Holy Communion by extension will happen on Easter Day.

A prayer for the Parish at a time of vacancy

Shepherd of souls, give to us for the leadership of your church in this parish. A person after your own heart. A person of faith and prayer, filled with the Spirit. A person of vision, wisdom and sound judgment. A person with a pastoral heart and a true love for people.

Prepare the person of your choice for their ministry among us, and prepare us for their coming; and overrule in everything for the doing of your will and the furtherance of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
Canon PW

TULLYAUGHNISH, KILMACRENNAN, KILLYGARVAN & GLENALLA

Rector: Rev Canon Harry Gilmore
Tel. 0749151013 Email: tkkgparishes@hotmail.com



ARDARA, GLENCOLUMBKILLE, GLENTIES, INNISKEEL & LETTERMACAWARD

Bishop's Curate: Rev Robert Wray
The Rectory, Lackegh, Portnoo, Co. Donegal
Email: robert_wray@talktalk.net



The shores of West Donegal are still being battered by high waves created by the recently passed storms and if I knew how to do it I would have attached some excellent pictures of huge waves rolling ashore. There is an awesome beauty in storm tossed sea if viewed from the comfort and safety of the shore. Just like the coastline, the parishes within the Ardara group are still being affected by the storm that was and still is Covid-19, but we are nearing the shore and with God's help we will stand again on firm ground.

The last two years have been incredibly difficult and at times heart-breaking, but we've also seen resilience and kindness within communities, a willingness to put others first. My hope and wish for the Ardara group is, as the waters calm, things do not return to normal (slow decline), but that we take this opportunity to begin anew our journey towards the Lord. We cannot change the past and yet we still have the opportunity to shape the future. The Ardara group is slowly picking up the pieces, not from where we left off, because two years on, we are

different people, hopefully wiser people. Who would have believed that we would have been compelled by law, to isolate within our own homes, to be forbidden to meet those we love, that our churches would be closed and people would die alone, their families forbidden from being with them. With the help and guidance of God we will begin anew, strengthened by the past and eager to learn from what the future may bring.

*You killed the author of life,
but God raised him from the
dead. We are witnesses of this.*

Acts 3:15

LECKPATRICK & DUNNALONG

Rev Canon Paul Whittaker: Rector and Rural Dean

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Facebook: Parishes of Leckpatrick and Dunalong Church of Ireland



A beautiful view from the study in the Rectory on the first day of spring, we have a lot to be thankful for especially when we turn on the TV and see what is happening in Ukraine, a pure act of evil. Our prayers are with the people of Ukraine at this terrible time.

Lent 2022

During our mid-week services we will be looking at 'Christianity Explored' through the eyes of the Apostle Mark. These will be live-streamed every Wednesday at 7.30pm. During Holy Week we will have a service of Holy Communion in Dunalong on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm. On Good Friday we will have an hour at the cross in Leckpatrick, this will be in four fifteen minute slots so please feel free to come and go during this hour.

Confirmation

The date for our Confirmation is Sunday 3rd April at 11.30am in Leckpatrick.



We have 12 candidates this year and their preparation has included a Youth Alpha course led by the Rector. We also enjoyed the Diocesan Confirmation Day organised by Dry in the Acorn Centre Londonderry.

The Future

We are entering a time of Renewing, Re-energising and Re-building the life of the Church and we have challenging times ahead. On 1st March we had our first Funeral Tea for over 2 years, it was great to get back to some sort of normality.



Dates for Summer

Sun 24th April act of remembrance in both Churches and a Memorial Service in Dunalong at 3pm (Lieutenant Leslie Hamilton) murdered by Terrorists 40 yr ago.

Wed 11th May Widows and Widowers Afternoon Tea.

Wed 25th and Thurs 26th May Coffee Evenings in the Old Rectory.

June (TBC) Rectory Coffee Morning.

Sat 4th June Community Celebration for the Queens Jubilee.

Sun 5th June Queens Platinum Jubilee 70 Years.

Sat 20th August Parish Fun Day in the Rectory Field or (Portrush).

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
Canon PW



PAUL MCFADDEN
DIOCESAN PRESS OFFICER

And finally...

*There and then;
here and now*

The Russian revolutionary leader, Lenin, said, "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen." The last week in February may prove to have been one such week.

It began with our island being pounded by Storm Franklin - the third in a rapid series of named storms - whose 100 kilometre an hour winds cut power to homes, felled trees, brought widespread flooding and towering waves; and it ended with havoc of a different kind being wrought elsewhere: heavily armed Russian troops rolling into Ukraine, violating the territorial integrity of a European democracy, bringing the spectre of war back to Europe. It was a week for 'wake up' calls.

Also, that week, we learned of the sudden death of the Democratic Unionist Party MLA, Christopher Stalford, at the age of 39. His death shocked colleagues and rivals alike, although his loss will be felt most acutely by his wife and four children, and by his mother.

At Stormont, MLAs on all sides paid heartfelt tribute to a politician who, in a short political career, had built close working relationships and struck up unlikely friendships with others from 'across the aisle'. In the chamber, and in remarks to journalists, many recalled his keen sense of humour, and his rare ability to separate politics from relationships with those from other parties or a different part of the community. It was a side of politics we see far too seldom in Northern Ireland.

Sixty years ago this year, in Cornell College, Iowa, the preacher and civil rights activist, Dr Martin Luther King, addressed the divisions in American society. "I am convinced that men hate each other because they fear each other," he told students. "They fear each other because they don't know each other, and they don't know each other because they don't communicate with each other, and they don't communicate with each other because they are separated from each other." His observation was true there and then; and it's true here and now.

As Christians, we are required to 'cross the aisle' constantly. The effect can be transformational. When we communicate with one another, we get to understand one another's worries and fears; we learn about the effect of our actions; we break down barriers; if we're lucky, we break down fear and emerge wiser, stronger and better.

Power-sharing isn't working as well as it could or should be at Stormont. But the prize of a functioning institution that serves all its citizens well is tantalisingly within reach. It needs communication; it requires hard work, patience, commitment, empathy and generosity - all within the gift of true followers of Jesus Christ.

The people of Ukraine may not have the opportunity we have. Their President, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, feared that "a new iron curtain" was closing Russia off from the civilised world. His citizens fear becoming trapped on the wrong side of the curtain. They may not have a choice. We do.

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Jill Harker loved taking
part in the challenge last
year with her dog Keeva.
She said: 'It's amazing
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Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

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