

Donabate and Lusk Development Project

The Parish of Donabate and Lusk development project is making good strides. Work will soon begin on the new house and gardens. This work will address some issues the parish have been facing for a number of years. In addition, we are delighted to say that the window repairs at the church will begin the first week in May. This is an important part of the project, and we are committed to ensuring that the church remains safe and well-maintained for everyone. We continue to thank Niall Minto for all his time and effort in progressing the development project and for overseeing the works to the church.



Ongoing Works at St Columba's Church and the Towers

The Square and Round Tower were awarded a grant of €125,000 from the Community Monuments Fund recently towards the ongoing repairs to these historic monuments. We thank Minister Darragh O'Brien who secured this funding for us. However, the costs of the next stage of repairs comes to €190,000, leaving a shortfall of €70,000 approx. Thanks to Stephen Vincent in liaising with the conservation architects and the contractors to bring these works to fruition.



Works at St Columba's Church also continues. A new skylight in the attic which was leaking severely will be replaced in the coming weeks. The water damage to the East wall is a continuing problem which has caused a huge damp stain on the inside of the church. Until this problem is resolved there will be a delay in getting the church painted internally. The plaster work on the inside of the church may have to be taken down to investigate further where the problem lies.

The Church Windows also need to be repaired and estimates are being sought in this regard. The cost to have the windows repaired fully will possibly lie in the region of €250,000. We thank Eric Wolfe for his commitment and dedication in trying to get the church repaired.



St Mary's Church, Clonmethan

St Mary's Church Clonmethan which lies on the edge of Oldtown in North Co Dublin has been awarded €121,000 from the CMF grant. We again thank Minister Darragh O'Brien for making this award possible. The Friends of Clonmethan, who are a local group of people, formed a few years ago to restore the tower of Clonmethan Church and to promote the church's long and significant history. The Church was closed in the 1960's but burials continue there. Alison Baker and Maud Keogh from Donabate & Lusk parish were parishioners who were buried there in recent years. The grant of €121,000 goes towards the restoration of the beautiful Church Tower. We thank Andy Anderson for all his work with the Friends of Clonmethan and for putting in the hard work needed to obtain the grants and oversee the works.



Donabate & Swords Girls Brigade

The 45th Company Girls Brigade held their 18th Annual Display on Saturday 22nd April in the Old Borough School Hall.

It was very well supported by Family and Friends as the girls got the opportunity to show off an amazing, eclectic variety of things they had learnt. Skipping, Dancing, Recitals and singing including Fancy Dress items on Mary Poppins and Snow White. It was such a wonderful joyful and entertaining occasion and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. The Rector led the prayers and Dr Lucy Phair presented the prizes. Many thanks to all the girls who took part and to Captain Caron Neale and the officers and leaders for all their hard work with the girls during the year.



















Confirmation 2023

Confirmation classes for 2023 have now completed which took place in the Parish Room in St Columba's Parish Centre. The Confirmation service will take place in St John the Baptist Church, Clontarf, on Sunday the 7th of May at 3pm. We have 10 candidates for Confirmation this year from this group of parishes. Please pray for: Noah Barry, Daniel O'Connor, Daniel Dunne, Tadhg Burnby, Evan Siung, Alex Forsyth, Shane Ennis, Anna Gundersen, Kayla Blanc, and Grace Teskey as they continue their Christian journey.

Mental Health Awareness

The diocese of Dublin and Glendalough are promoting Mental Health Awareness and have 'Walks of Wellbeing' planned. The next one will be on Sunday the 7th of May, meeting at the Papal cross, Phoenix Park from 3-5pm and the last one is on Saturday the 27th of May, meeting at St Johns Church, Laragh in Glendalough, from 11am- 4pm. (please bring a packed lunch and water). For more information about these events please ring : 0860386415 or 0879091561.

Also in regard to this important subject, Mary Jones from Donabate & Lusk parish is offering Mental Health Wellbeing coaching which can be offered online or in person. It would include 4 sessions, 60 minutes each. Cost per session 10 euros. She can be contacted on: dmjones.family@gmail.com



A *Praise & Pizza Family Service* for this group of parishes took place on Sunday evening the 23rd of April in St Columba's Parish Centre, Swords. Stephen Vincent led this creative service. Thanks to Gillian Haynes from Swords parish and Liz O'Connor from Donabate Parish who helped out in April with preparing the food etc. **The May Praise 'n Pizza will take place on the 28th May at the usual time of 6.30pm.** *Prayers, Songs, Activities, Talk + Pizza* is the usual format for the evening. For further details contact Stephen Vincent or Gillian Haynes at gillian.haynes@gmail.com or the Rector at nealphair@hotmail.com

Swords, Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan Parish Fete

The Swords, Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan Parish Fete will be held at **The Rectory, Church Road, Swords, on Saturday the 10th of June from 2-5pm.** There will be a whole array of attractions at the Fete which will include:

St George's Brass Band, BBQ, Tea/coffee/scones/cake Stand, White Elephant, Books/CDs/DVDS Stand, Fruit/Veg/Plants, Pony Rides, Tour of St Columba's historic and Monastic Churchyard at 3pm, Raffle for 3 hampers, Guess the number of sweets in the Jar, weight of the cake and Childrens Games – Face Painting, colouring competition, catch the duck in the pond, horse shoe game, splat the rat, Cans and Ball game etc. etc. If the weather is bad on the day, the Fete will be held in the St Columba's Parish Centre. Admission fee will be €2 for adults. Children and senior citizens etc. are free.

We are appealing for items for the white elephant stand (anything that can sell! Items can be collected if need be) We also need - books /CD/DVDs, fruit, veg, plants, items for hampers (bottles of wine, boxes of biscuits, chocolates etc.) cakes, scones, tray bakes etc. All to be brought to the St Columba's church on the Wednesday and Thursday before the fete from 10am - 12 noon and 6-8pm.

Please come along and support this important fundraising and social event for the parish. Everyone very very welcome!



Church Services for May

7th May – 5th Sunday of Easter

Donabate 10am Holy Communion + Sunday Club

Swords 11.30am Holy Communion + Sunday Club

14th May - 6th Sunday of Easter

Donabate 10am Morning Prayer

Swords 11.30am Morning Prayer

Kilsallaghan 11.30am Holy Communion

21st May – 7th Sunday of Easter

Donabate 10am Family Service

Swords 11.30am Family Service

28th May – Day of Pentecost

Donabate 10am Holy Communion

Swords 11.30am Holy Communion

Swords Hall 6.30pm Praise & Pizza

Illness

We pray for Phoebe, Norman, Anne and Robert at this time.