

Parishes of Swords Clonmethan & Kilsallaghan with Donabate & Lusk

Newsletter May 2025

A flyer for a Confirmation Service. The background is a solid brown color. On the right side, there is a large, stylized green dove in flight, facing left. The dove has a white patch on its back. In the top left and bottom right corners, there are green leafy branches. The text is arranged in the center-left area. The words "Confirmation Service" are written in a large, white, cursive font. Above this, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text "Join us for Holy Communion & the 2025". Below the main title, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text "Sunday May 4th, 2025 @ 11.30 AM". Below that, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text "Saint Columba's Church Swords". Below that, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text "Led by Archbishop Michael Jackson,". Below that, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text "Rev'd Canon Lesley Robinson and". Below that, in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, is the text "Lay Minister David Snow".

Join us for Holy Communion & the 2025

Confirmation Service

Sunday May 4th, 2025 @ 11.30 AM
Saint Columba's Church Swords
Led by Archbishop Michael Jackson,
Rev'd Canon Lesley Robinson and
Lay Minister David Snow

Saint David's Church Reopened

Saint David's Kilsallaghan reopened its doors on Easter Sunday, after its refurbishment. The service included a Holy Baptism, fittingly enough. Congratulations to all!





Easter Egg Hunt

After the winter hibernation of January, February and March, the parish kick-started our social agenda with Sunday Club in the Sun, concluding with an Easter Egg hunt.

As the sun shone, the Sunday Club children left the church to head to the Parish Hall, only to discover that the stand-in warden, who won't be named (Niall), had forgotten to open the hall. The Sunday Club leaders, ever creative, decided to hold the session outside instead and make the most of the sunshine.

While the children were busy with Sunday Club, the Easter Bunny managed to hide Easter eggs all around the church grounds. As is the tradition, the children scurried through the church grounds looking for Easter Eggs. In a great show of Christianity, all the collected eggs were brought together and shared out equally.

It was such a lovely way to Spring the parish into its 2025 social calendar.

Afternoon Tea by the Sea



While the sunshine of the past week had slipped behind the clouds for the moment, the sea remained clearly visible as parishioners and friends from Donabate, Lusk, Swords, and Kilsallaghan gathered for Afternoon Tea by the Sea in the Shoreline Hotel in Donabate.

Against the beautiful backdrop of the Irish Sea, there was a great mix of people from Portrane, Donabate, Lusk, Malahide, Swords, Kilsallaghan, Ballyboughal and further afield.

It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, make new ones, and discover things about each other that might not come up in church, such as learning that someone who hardly looks old enough to be a grandmother is, in fact, a great-grandmother!

We shared stories about the ongoing works at St David's Church in Kilsallaghan, and were delighted to have a few babies in attendance who stole the cuteness show.

As always, sincere thanks to everyone who came along, and special thanks to our strong Cork woman and socialite, Jean.

Our wonderful rector Yvonne summed it up by asking "When is the next social event?". It was truly Afternoon Tea by the Sea.

Praise 'n Pizza



Parishes of Swords
Donabate and Kilsallaghan

An Evening Family Service

Prayers + Songs + Talk + Activity* + PIZZA!

a.k.a. hymns!

*optional for parents! ☺

Sunday 11th May

Old Borough
School Hall

| 6:00pm

(finished by
7:30pm-ish)

EVERYONE is very welcome!



Have you ever considered putting your foot on that first rung of the ‘governance ladder’ of YOUR parish church? If so, your fellow parishioners will be delighted to welcome you as you take that first participative step. Interested, articulate people, in all the age groups from 18 years upwards, are always needed to help with the running and upkeep of our churches and parish buildings.

This ‘ladder’ can take you – if you wish – from General Vestry to Select Vestry roles and onto elected Diocesan Synod membership where you can represent your parish at diocesan level.

Or you can wish to take no part in ongoing governance of the parishes and wish only to attend the Easter General Vestry to make sure that the accounts are in order and the parishes are being run in a sustainable and responsible way. If you have an opinion about your parish, the Easter General Vestry meeting is the time to express it.

The choice is yours.

That’s why it is important to attend the Easter General Vestry – equivalent to an annual general meeting of a business – you deserve to have your voice heard in your church.

This goes double for our current situation, where our incumbent is on long-term sick leave.

All parishioners are welcome, and indeed greatly encouraged, to attend.

YOU can make a difference!

Please consider this YOUR invitation.

Donabate and Lusk Parish:

Our Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting (AGM) is being held in St Patrick's Church in Donabate on Wednesday 30th of April at 8 p.m. This meeting will be chaired by Rev'd Canon Lesley Robinson.

Swords Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan Parish:

Our Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting (AGM) is being held in our Parish Room in the Hall across from St Columba's Church in Swords on Tuesday the 6th of May at 8 p.m. This meeting will be chaired by Archdeacon David Pierpoint.

Please support these important events in our church calendar.

Brian Boru's Wake festival

"It was a magical evening. The musicians and the storytelling were amazing. I love the fact that the church grounds have a round tower that was there in Brian Boru's time. Great evening."

"Brian Boru's Wake was brilliant."

"Well done to you all. It was just fantastic."

"Something really different!"

"We thoroughly enjoyed our evening. It was great to be part of 1500 years of history."



The above are just a few samples of people's reactions to the Brian Boru's Wake festival. What a weekend!

The Friends of St Columba's would like to thank the parish of Swords Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan for allowing us to use St Columba's, and everyone who came to our two completely sold out events, Brian Boru's Wake on Saturday night and the guided tour on Sunday. Thank you to Councillor Joe Newman for all the support and for joining us along with other such luminaries as Councillor Darragh Butler, Deputy Duncan Smith, and Brian McDonagh, the Mayor of Fingal. And thank you to Fingal County Council for supporting the festival.

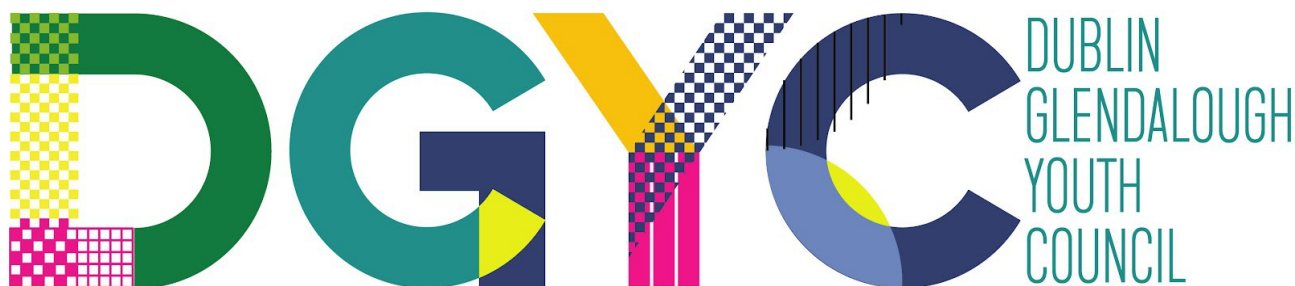
Thank you to all the incredibly gifted musicians: Darragh Ó Héiligh, Fiona Gryson, and Róisín Ó Connor, as well as sisters Caoilfhionn Ní Scolaí, Emer Ní Scolaí, and Siorcha Ní Scolaí, who are not only supremely talented, but related to Brian Boru! The music was, in a word, sublime.

Thank you to the very talented costume expert and lighting expert and actors, the master of ceremonies, Nora Murray and Margaret Wolfe the caterers, Brian Scott and Eric Wolfe the tour guides, the stewards, and the medieval monks who came to carry the mortal remains of the High King – as well as everyone else who had a hand in the festival. Well done, all.

And thank you to Andy who had the idea and the drive to create this special community event.

You're all amazing. I could go on! Instead, I will spare you and until next time, close, as we closed this Celtic celebration on Saturday night, with The Parting Glass.

*"So fill to me the parting glass
And drink a health whate'er befalls
Then gently rise and softly call
Good night and joy be to you all."*



Here are some upcoming events that may be of interest to young people and/or their parents.

If you're interested in more information about any of the following, contact Emma Fawcett, the Diocesan Youth Ministry Development Officer, by emailing dgyc.office@gmail.com.

1. Unpacking Adolescence: 13th May

In response to the attention the Netflix show, Adolescence has drawn, DGYC has invited Counsellor and Psychotherapist, Tom Tate from WhyMind.ie to facilitate a Zoom session for parents, youth leaders and clergy (over 18's).

In this session we will highlight some challenges young people face in this particular age of digital immersion, how best we can safeguard them and create healthy boundaries, and ways to create safe, open and ongoing conversations with young people. 13th May, 7:30pm. www.dgyc.org/events

2. Moving Schools: 18th May

DGYC is running a 2 hour session to help 6th class pupils and their parents/guardians prepare for the big move to secondary school. 18th May. 3-5pm. www.dgyc.org/events

3. Inter-Youth Charity Football Tournament: 24th May

A football tournament for youth groups at UCD Football Cages. Contact Micah from Holy Trinity Youth at 0830441585 to sign up. €50 sign-up fee per team. All funds donated to Jigsaw. Saturday 24th May, 10am-1pm

4. Summer Madness: 27th June - 1st July

DGYC is joining up with other Church of Ireland Dioceses at Summer Madness this year and we are getting a shared marquee! We are delighted that this means we are able to provide food and transport for a subsidised cost of €55pp. If you'd like to bring a group to SM, and use the DGYC food and bus, chat to me about that (you will need to book your group festival tickets separately). Booking forms available now.

Church Services for the Month Ahead

Sunday the 4th of May

10 a.m. Saint Patrick's Donabate

Morning Prayer

11.30 a.m. Saint Columba's Swords

Holy Communion and Confirmation Service

Sunday the 11th of May

10 a.m. Saint Patrick's Donabate

Holy Communion and Holy Baptism

11.30 a.m. Saint Columba's Swords

Holy Communion

6 p.m. Swords

Praise 'n' Pizza in the hall

Sunday the 18th of May

10 a.m. Saint Patrick's Donabate

Family Service

11.30 a.m. Saint Columba's Swords

Morning Prayer

Sunday the 25th of May

10 a.m. Saint Patrick's Donabate

Holy Communion

11.30 a.m. Saint Columba's Swords

Holy Communion

1 p.m. Saint David's Kilsallaghan

Holy Communion

And finally...

A Prayer by Jane Austen



Incline us, O God, to think humbly of ourselves,

To be severe only in the examination of our own conduct,

To consider our fellow creatures with kindness,

And to judge of all they say and do with that charity which we would desire from them ourselves.

Amen