



Summer Newsletter 2023

Newsletter for the Grouped Parishes of Swords, Clonmethan, and Kilsallaghan, with Donabate and Lusk



Hello! And welcome to your summer Newsletter.

The words of the 1970's movie Grease song "*Summer Nights*" come to mind. "*Summer loving had me a blast, summer loving happened so fast!*" blink and you missed it! Summer is sadly come to end, the children are returning to School and to quote Game of Thrones "*Winter is coming!*"

Rev Neal Phair produces a monthly Parish Newsletter, as he is currently off, I decided to put together a Summer Newsletter, to keep you posted on what has been happening in our Grouped Parishes. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions or wants to contribute to future publications, please do let Neal or myself know.

A Note of Thanks



A particular note of Thanks to Revd Norman Gamble, who is retired from Service, but answered the call of Revd Lesley Robinson, the Rural Dean, to provide his services to our Parish whilst Revd Neal Phair is off. Revd Gamble covered Holy Communion Services and was a great support to myself, kindly sharing his many years of knowledge and experience. I also pass on thanks to Revd Tom O'Brien for his support, delivering Holy Communion and wish him well in his new Parish.

I also extent thanks to the Donabate Parishioners and in particular Brian Scott. I arrived at your Church in June to deliver a service of Morning Prayer. You did know me, but openly welcomed me into your Church and have been incredibly



supportive. I will eventually get to one of your after Church coffee meetings in Jones's and look forward to adding a few lbs to my waist line with the delicious cakes and coffee.

St Columba's Swords Summer Fete



A most enjoyable day in Swords, for the summer fete which occurred on Saturday 10th June, in which a total amount of €2,884 was raised after costs and expenses. Apart from the much needed funds, it was a most enjoyable day, which brought everyone together and it didn't rain, until the last ½ hour. Well done to everyone and a mention to our Treasury Fred Elliott who tracked all of the revenue by different streams, who plenty to review and plan for 2024.





Morning Coffee in Donabate



On Saturday 29th July, Kay and Jim arranged a morning coffee, with plenty of cakes and biscuits in their home and garden in Donabate to raise funds for the Sunday club. The morning was well attended and unfortunately for my waist line, I found the shortbread biscuits, which words escape me to describe the taste. All in a most enjoyable morning, which raised €320 for the club.

Also a note of Thanks to Laura Jones, who opened her home for an afternoon lunch on Saturday 2nd of September. A most enjoyable afternoon was had with plenty of food, good conversation and the sun also paid us a visit.

New Car Park and Meeting Facilities at St Patrick's Church Donabate

In all the Church's I have attended, parking of your car is always a concern, with advanced thought required. Not so at St Patrick's Donabate. The Vestry have worked hard,



purchasing some land and turning what was a garden or field into a most professional and welcoming car park, which holds 12 cars. In addition they have put in place a meeting room, with connected electricity and also a toilet facility to the rear. Congratulations to the Vestry and Parishioners of St. Patricks, this is a most welcome development and a great collaborative achievement.

A good Protestant goes to Church twice a year! –

by Niall Minto, St Patrick's Donabate

I heard it said that a good Protestant goes to service twice a year, Easter and Christmas. Yet, defining faith based on attendance in church risks alienating what it is to be part of the Christian faith. Being a Christian is more than attending church. It is about doing God's



Jean (3rd on left)

work in our daily lives but let's leave the theology for the Sunday sermon. Instead, consider all the roles that people have in our community that contribute to the Sunday service. For example, those who maintain the church grounds, arrange the flowers, select hymns and readings, read, clean the church, manage the finances, take

care of the buildings, hold garden

parties, prepare and run the Sunday Club, or quietly fix the lights midweek without seeking acknowledgement or recognition. The list is endless and I am sure that I have forgotten a number of people but hopefully, you know who you are and we thank you. All these roles are critical to the life of the church. We also must remember those that have held these roles in the past for we stand on their shoulders. We build on the work that they did.

An essential aspect of any community is the social fabric. How do we bring people together and then keep them together? In the parish of Donabate and Lusk, we are lucky to have somebody who coordinates and builds the social fabric of our community. They are the person that will ring everybody and encourage everyone to attend the social events. They are the person that ensures that we, as a community remember each other and care for each other for that hour a week in church but more importantly, for those 167 hours a week that we spend outside church. So today, we thank God for Jean Elleker who is the glue that binds us together and we look forward to many other social events that Jean will insist, no that should be encourage, us to attend.

Answering God's Call

I have been a Parishioner of Swords, for the past 49 years. I may not look that old, but appearances can be deceptive! I'm starting to feel the years.



In June, I was delighted to be Commissioned Parish Reader by Archbishop Michael Jackson in Christ Church Cathedral along with some additional candidates. Taking on Parish Reader is a great honour for me and I am truly thankful for your prayers and good wishes. I must apologise to both Donabate and Swords, for any mistakes I have made.

I am still learning and do my best, occasionally I will make an error, but to quote Alexander Pope “To err is human, to forgive divine.”



David & his cousin Sarah Brooks

I am progressing this year to Diocesan Reader or Lay Minister, which involves some academic work and positioning to another Parish for a month, which as I understand will be either Balbriggan or Clontarf. Personally I hope it's Clontarf, as I have had the pleasure of meeting with Revd Lesley Robinson and attending some of her midweek Morning Prayer Services, along with meeting some of her Parishioners. Revd Robinson is the Rural Dean of Fingal and has been most supportive, along with giving me much valued advice and guidance.

Answering the call to service, is personal to each of us and involves plenty of prayer, personal review analysis, life review and then taking the step. Rev Neal Phair has been most supportive and of course if it was not for the influence of our previous Reader Addy Patterson, I would not have taken the step. I just hope that I can serve the Lord, with as much love and enthusiasm as Addy. RIP fellow Christian and good friend. The words “*Onward Christian Soldier*” come to mind whenever I think of Addy.

Consider a Certificate in Theology & Practice

Certificate in Christian Theology & Practice



instructors at the Theological Institute are excellent and truly gifted and providing



education to people at all levels of academic backgrounds. The food is also excellent and I remember with fondness the Services held within the Chapel.

Parish of Drumcondra, North Strand and St Barnabas

Parish Sale

North Strand Church & Infant School
(Waterloo Ave)

Saturday 23rd September 2023
11:00am to 2:00pm

ALL WELCOME



BRIC-A-BRAC



MUSIC/DVDS

REFRESHMENTS



GIFTS



BOOKS

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RAFFLE, LUCKY DIP, JIGSAWS, BOTTLE STALL**

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

Admission €1 Families €3

Remembering in our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers

Revd Neal Phair

Revd Robert Deane

Yvonne Packer

Jim Hender

Anne Minto

Joan O'Callaghan

The Cobb Family

“You are the light of the world”

Matthew 5:14