

**Swords Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan
with Donabate & Lusk
Parish Newsletter**

September 2026

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SERVICE**

**ST PATRICK'S
CHURCH
DONABATE
K36 Y521**



**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!**



10 AM

Family Services

Putting Our Children at the Heart of Our Community

Each month, from September to June, St Patrick's Church, Donabate, holds a Family Service, led entirely by the children of our parish.

These services are a wonderful opportunity to involve our younger members in the life of our community and, most importantly, to remind them that they are at the heart of our parish family.

We invite parents and guardians to let us know in future by the Friday before each Family Service if their child would like to take part by reading. Please send their age too. We ask for their age so that we can choose an appropriate reading or part of the service for them. Their name will then be included in the service booklet, which we send to them via their parents, in advance so they have plenty of time to practise their reading.

Our next Family Service takes place this Sunday, the 6th of September in St Patrick's.

It will be a special Back to School Service, focusing on the school year ahead and asking for God's blessing on all our children, families and teachers as a new academic year begins.

We warmly welcome the children of Swords parish to join us.

We would love to have as many of our children as possible involved and look forward to celebrating the start of the new school year together!

-- Niall Minto

Departures

Lay Minister Eric Hughes wrote recently to say, with regret, he is stepping back from ministry in our parishes, as he and his family are moving to the city centre. He'll certainly be missed.

Archbishop Michael Jackson wrote to say that, following close to four years on sick leave, Rector Neal Phair has submitted an application for retirement on medical grounds.

-- Andrea Patterson

IN MEMORY



DENISE CALLAN

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Denise Callan (née Rogan). Deepest sympathies to her husband Paul, daughters Aoife and Orlagh, son Conor, mother Celine, sister Gwen, brother Craig, mother-in-law Lorraine, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

May Denise rest in peace
and rise in glory.

Painting work progressing at St Columba's

Painting continues at St Columba's with our painters working tirelessly to restore the beauty of this historic church, overseen and managed by equally tireless select vestry member, Andy Anderson.

Our painters are doing very good work, although it is a painstaking process.

See the photo for a sample of the detail involved.



Thank you to all the congregation at St Patrick's in Donabate for their kind hospitality to the St Columba's refugees while the work is in progress.

Never Too Old To Try Something New – A Lesson For All!



Over the last three years, Lay Minister David Snow has been providing Ecumenical Services, out of hours support and visits to residents within the CareChoice facility of Swords. The Nursing home is located only a two minute walk from St Columba's Church, directly opposite the Rectory and is the home from home for 150 residents.

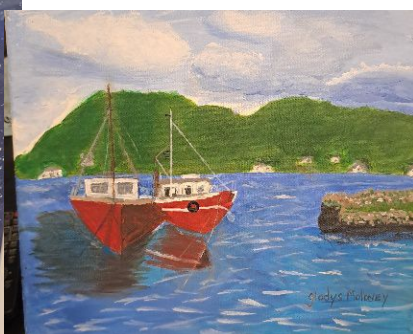
Gladys Moloney (pictured left with David) is one of a few Church of Ireland residents, who has gotten to know David well since she took up residency three years ago. Originally from Beaumont in Dublin, Gladys was a parishioner for many years at Drumcondra and North Strand.

In January, Gladys was introduced to painting by Yolanda one of the Carers. Talking to David, Gladys tells him that she enjoys painting and finds it a great way of expressing herself, a form of relaxation and therapy. As we can see from her many pictures, she has developed a true skill, or discovered a natural talent. Her mostly acrylic paintings reflect her long passion for art and now she is the artist!



Now in her 91st year, Gladys is spritely as ever, fast to share a joke and enjoys participating in our Church Services and in particular loves the hymns and music. Gladys is an inspirational lady who enjoys private prayer and receiving Holy Communion from David and Reverend Yvonne Ginnelly who also supports and visits at the Nursing Home, especially during Easter and Christmas, delivering much needed spiritual assistance.

We asked David about his experiences in the Nursing Homes. He responded "A Sunday Church Service is the easy part, it's being with people like Gladys and others at times of need that is the best opportunity to Minister and share the light of Christ."





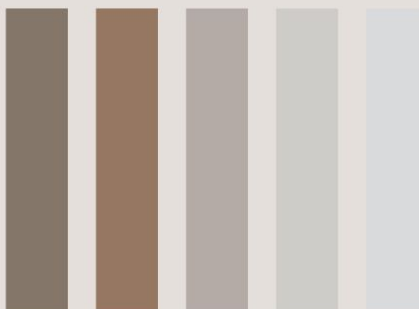
Wedding

CONGRATULATIONS

Katie O'Connor and Paul Deegan married recently in St Columba's church. Wishing the happy couple every blessing for their future together.



KATIE AND PAUL
11.07.26



GIRLS' BRIGADE NOTES

from **Captain Caron Neale** - 086 3893175 - 45thcoswordsgirlsbrigadeirl.ie



Tiny Tots (3 and 4 yr olds) and Explorers (ages 5 to 8 yrs old)
-5.30pm to 7.00pm.

Juniors (ages 9 to 11), Seniors (ages 12 & 13), Brigaders (ages 14 +)
- 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Looking forward to seeing everyone for another fun filled year.



*Our 2026/2027 session of Girls Brigade will begin on **Wednesday 23rd September, 2026** and we look forward to seeing all the girls again and to welcoming new girls also.*

*As normal, Girl's Brigade will take place in the **Old Borough School Hall, Church Road, Swords, each Wednesday** for all girls as follows:*



We send our very best wishes to two of our leaders who were married this summer.

Congratulations to Katie who married Paul. Katie with the girls from her guard of honour, above.

And congratulations to Laura who married Eoghan. Laura (left) with the Captain and some of the leaders.

Services for the month ahead

As St Columba's is closed for painting at the moment, and St David's is on hiatus for the summer, the only service each Sunday is at 10 a.m. in St Patrick's Church in Donabate. Everyone is welcome.

Dates for Harvest Festival and the Grand Reopening of St Columba's to be announced soon.

Praise and Pizza

Praise and Pizza is due back soon, with some exciting changes for the new season. The kickoff date will be announced very soon. Contact Yvonne Howell on 086 354 7206 for updates.

And, finally...

