



THE DUNDALK GROUP OF PARISHES

Dundalk: St Nicholas' Dundalk; St Paul's Heynestown.

Ballymascanlan & Carlingford: St Mary's Ballymascanlan; St Andrew's Rathcor (Bush)

Crossmaglen: Creggan Parish Church

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2019

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

IF WE OBSERVE DECIDUOUS TREES AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, THEY APPEAR A PALE RESIDUE OF A FORMER GLORY AS THEY STAND STARK AGAINST THE SKYLINE WITHOUT LEAVES. TREES MAY SEEM DEVOID OF LIFE AND SEEM SIMPLY TO BE A MAZE OF DEAD WOOD. HOW WRONG WE ARE IF WE ASSUME THAT THIS IS THE CASE. AS WE KNOW, TREES REMAIN DORMANT DURING THE WINTER SEASON AND ARE NOT DEAD. THEIR FORMER GLORY OF A COAT OF FLOWERS, FRUIT AND LEAVES RETURNS.

THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN WE FEEL LIKE A TREE IN WINTER IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES. WE MAY FEEL THAT GOD IS DISTANT OR WE HAVE FELL AWAY FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, THAT WAS ONCE MORE RICHER AND FULFILLING. PERHAPS, THERE MAY BE A TIME WHEN IT FEELS LIKE A DESERT PATH THAT WE TREAD AND, EVEN, WHEN WE SEEK GOD'S FACE, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO ANSWER AND OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES REMAIN DRY. THESE SITUATIONS MAY BE ANALGOUS OF THE WINTER TREE BUT, REMEMBER, GOD IS ALWAYS NEAR REGARDLESS OF HOW WE FEEL OR EXPERIENCE LIFE. THESE ARE DORMANT SEASONS, NEVER DEAD ONES. OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES WILL EXPERIENCE DORMANT SEASONS FROM TIME TO TIME BUT GOD NEVER LETS US GO. WE CHOOSE THE PATH THAT LEADS TO A DEAD RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. THE BOOK OF JOEL TELLS US THAT GOD 'WILL RESTORE THE YEARS THAT THE LOCUST HAS EATEN'. WHEN WE FEEL LIKE THE WINTER TREE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, WE MUST REMAIN STRONG IN HIM, REMEMBERING THAT HE IS STILL WITH US NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS AND TRUSTING THAT NEW SEASONS OF FRUIT WILL RETURN AGAIN .

GOD BLESS YOU

Geoffrey

Services - FEBRUARY

Week commencing 3rd

Creggan -	9.30am MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP2
Bush -	12 noon MP2
Heynestown -	10.00am HC2
Dundalk -	11.00am HC2

Week commencing 10th

Creggan -	9.30am Family Service
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP2
Bush -	12 noon Family Service
Heynestown -	10.00am MP2
Dundalk -	11.00am MP2

Week commencing 17th

Creggan -	9.30am HC2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am HC2
Bush -	12 noon HC2
Heynestown -	10.00am MP1
Dundalk -	11.00am Family Service

Week commencing 24th

Creggan -	9.30am HC2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am HC2
Bush -	12noon HC2
Heynestown -	10.00am HC2
Dundalk -	11.00am HC2

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- Giving thanks to God and what He wants to do through His church this year
- Bishop Isesomo and the diocese of North Kivu, D R Congo. Unrest is still prevalent there and we pray for peace and unity again. Also, pray for Bishop Suheil and the diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East
- The outcomes of Brexit and what that may mean for our nations
- The suppression of terrorism, dictatorship and tyranny
- The homeless and unemployed
- Our young people and children
- 20 confirmees who wish to be confirmed this spring
- The hospitalized, those at home needing care and those in nursing care
- Those who grieve and the pain of bereavement

Come and Experience the Living Word

Bible Study

Bible study this month will be held in St Richards side chapel, Dundalk on **Thursday 21st February at 7.30pm**. Everyone very welcome as we continue to explore the book of Job together.

Congratulations to Rita Arthur, our new parish reader for the group of parishes. Rita's commissioning service was held in Armagh Cathedral on Sunday 20th January. It was a wonderful occasion and many people were present from the group of parishes and beyond to see Rita and five others from the diocese be made official!! We look forward to seeing Rita continue to lead and assist in services over the years ahead and do

continue to uphold her in prayer.



This week Rev. Geoffrey & John met Mr Stewart Agnew from the Dundalk Credit Union and was presented with a cheque €2000 towards the Green Church 'Roof Repairs'



SELECT VESTRY MEETINGS

**Dundalk on Monday 11th February at 8pm
in the Wellington Hall.**

**Ballymascanlan/Bush on Monday 18th February at
7.30pm in the Ballymascanlan church Hall.**

DUNDALK HOMELESS SUPPORT GROUP:

The ongoing work of the group is tremendous in the Dundalk community and thank you all for your partnership in aiding the homeless through the trolley ministry in St Nicholas church. May we encourage everyone to keep donating non-perishable items as they can for this invaluable work and it is very much appreciated. Please pray also for the leadership of the group as there are some serious health issues confronting them at present and we hope they are very well soon.



A huge thank you to the choir at St Nicholas, Dundalk and the organists who faithfully give of their time every week to lead worship in the church. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes and we are grateful for all that they do.

May I take this opportunity to encourage anyone who may like to sing to come along and give the ranks of the choir a go. You would be warmly welcomed and I know they have an excellent fellowship together, making music fun and a way of using a wonderful gift.

May I also take this time to thank all who are involved in the disc ministries in St Pauls, Heynestown, St Marys, Ballymascanlan, St Andrews, Bush, and Creggan. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication each week in church.



GREENORE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Thank you one and all who have supported the Mission to Seafarers at Greenore port in refurbishing the room where the mission centre is. It has been very much appreciated and the items are coming into good use. We pray now for the outreach to grow and to build relationships with many at the port. We also pray for someone who may like to become a ships visitor at the port in conjunction with the outreach to seafarers. This is quite an exciting venture which would involve being able to access ships and liaise with the mission centre. If you are interested even slightly about this, feel free to contact Geoffrey as soon as possible please for further information.



The Mission to Seafarers
Caring for seafarers around the world



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:

There was a successful service held in St Pauls, Heynestown on Monday 21st January at 7.30pm to celebrate the week of prayer for Christian unity. Thank you to all who were involved in any way and it was wonderful to see many people from different parts of the community in attendance.

May we encourage more children aged between 4 and 12 to come along to Sunday school in our churches. It is great to see as many children that we have coming on a regular basis to each of the parish Sunday schools (Creggan, Bush and Dundalk), but there is always room for more. If you have a child between these ages, feel free to bring them along for fun and learning in an age appropriate environment.

The youth group in St Nicholas, Dundalk continues to grow and we hope that more young people aged from 12 years and upwards will avail of coming along for fun and learning experience in their own space.



February meeting will be Sunday 10th & 24th during the service times of the church in their own environment.

WELLINGTON HALL DUNDALK



For bookings and up to date news please visit the website.
Alternatively you can call Colin 086 6085662

www.wellingtonhalldundalk.com



St Nicholas' National School

2nd, 3rd & 4th classes have moved to the Wellington Hall and have settled in nicely. The children are really enjoying the extra space in the yard and the use of the hall for PE. An open day for parents was on the 16th January. Parents were invited to see the classrooms and facilities the children are availing of.

4th, 5th & 6th classes went to Íontas in Castleblaney to see Jack and the Beanstalk. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

The Mothers Union will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday 25th February at 8pm** in the Infants room (Wellington Hall).

The speaker this month will be from SAGE (Support and Advocacy service for older people).

All ladies very welcome to attend.

A great evening was had by all at the annual dinner in The Spotted Dog, Dundalk on the 16th January. Many thanks to all who arranged and provided in any way for it.

We hope to begin a Shoppers service in St Nicholas, Dundalk this month beginning on **Thursday 21st February at 11am.**

This is a venture that will be built on the principle of 'open days' that have happened on different occasions in the church over the last few years. It is hoped that the church will be open monthly between the hours of 11am and 1pm on a particular Thursday and that the general public passing by may avail of coming into the church and experiencing it for themselves.

During this period, a short service of reflection will occur and people can stay for it if, or as they wish. The church will be manned at all times. Everyone is very welcome to come along at any time, both parishioners and non-parishioners and the intention is that this time may be another way of reaching out further into the community.

