



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 - JANUARY 2018

CONTACT DETAILS: Rev. Capt. Geoffrey Walmsley Tel: 087-4669806/042-9321402

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray that you and those whom you love have had a peaceful and blessed Christmas. As we enter 2018 and another year dawns upon us, we are sometimes set with new thoughts, challenges and directions. This may come in the form of new year resolutions, aspirations or hopes.

I am reminded of Jesus in John's Gospel chapter 4 where He meets the 'woman at the well'. Jesus, being Jewish by human birth, enters Samaritan country and encounters a Samaritan woman at a well where an interesting dialogue ensues between the two. Immediately, we notice challenges and new ground being broken. Jews and Samaritans did not mix. They were historical enemies of each other and secondly, a Jewish man and a 'foreign' woman in conversation was a no-go area. This would have been quite shocking in the culture of the day and Jesus entreats us to very new possibilities through this. All people are loved by the Father and have every right to know of God's love and grace. This should continually move us into the domain of reaching out to others yet to know Christ. This may involve serving the Lord in connecting with others very different from ourselves or entering the challenge of working in the mission field where we have never served before, both locally and wider afield.

This story of Jesus in Samaria is as fresh today as ever in its implications. I hope and pray that we all heed the call to continue to serve our Lord and, for some this year, new directions may open up in the call to service. I pray for fresh and new empowerment by the Holy Spirit in the mission of our King.

God bless you and a Christ-centred new year to all.

A personal thank you also on behalf of Christine, myself and the children for all your kind words, cards and gifts over the Christmas season.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Bishop Ilesomo and the diocese of North Kivu, DR Congo. Also Bishop Suheil and the diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East
- Those hospitalized and ill in nursing care or at home
- Thanks to God for His blessings over the last year and His guidance for the new year
- Protection against the storms and those threatened with natural disaster in the world
- Refugees and migrant people in Europe and Ireland
- Archbishop Richard and the diocese of Armagh
- Both national governments and Godly administration
- The homeless, unemployed and destitute
- Those stabbed in Dundalk and family and friends of the deceased

Services - January

Week commencing 7th

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

Week commencing 14th

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

Week commencing 21st

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

Week commencing 28th

Creggan -	8.00pm MP2
Ballymascanlan -	10.45am MP2
Bush -	12 noon MP2
Heynestown -	10.00am HC2
Dundalk -	11.00am HC2

FROM THE REGISTER:

- ◆ Caoimhe Fiona Poni was baptized on 26th November in St Nicholas, Dundalk.
- ◆ Arturs Daugintis was baptized on 17th December in St Nicholas, Dundalk
- ◆ Markuss Daugintis was baptized on 17th December in St Nicholas, Dundalk

The next Rural Deanery service will be held in

St Marys, Ardee on

Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and continue to strengthen our links with others throughout the Creggan and Louth deanery.

SELECT VESTRY MEETINGS

Dundalk on **Wednesday 17th January** at 8pm in St Richards side chapel.



Sunday Schools within the group of parishes will recommence on the first Sunday of each month. All children aged between 4 and 12 are very welcome along. Sunday schools occur during the time of the morning services in Dundalk, Creggan and Bush churches where at the beginning of the service Sunday school teachers escort the children to enjoy age appropriate learning in the side chapel (Dundalk) and church halls (Creggan and Bush). The children then return at the end of the services. May we encourage all parents/guardians and their children to avail of this ministry.

FELLOWSHIP OF VOCATION:

Normally, this is a group of people who meet and are in the process of exploring full time or part time ministry in the Church of Ireland. However, on the 11th January at 7.30pm in the Crozier Hall in the Mall in Armagh, a new development in the Church of Ireland called Ordained Local Ministry will be unveiled. This is a new form of ministry in many ways and the evening is an exploratory occasion for all who may be interested in finding out more about this particular ministry and what may be detailed within it. If you have even the slightest inkling that you may have a curiosity toward this, please feel free to go along. There is no obligation. Do contact Geoffrey or Richard for further detail.

NORTH KIVU:

As in former editions of the newsletter, I would like to reiterate the opportunity for anyone who would be interested in travelling to North Kivu, DR Congo this year as part of a CMSI observational trip. North Kivu is one of our link diocese and this is a wonderful invitation to cement our relationship with the people there and gain first hand experience of the church in that part of the world. Please contact Geoffrey for further details

E3 MISSION:

Between the dates of 18th and 27th May this year, it is hoped that a mission team will be amongst us in the parish of St Nicholas, Dundalk. They are called E3 and are a mixed team of Irish and American folks, both young and more mature, committed to sharing Christ's love in Ireland. They hope, in tandem with the parish, to reach out to the wider community in different ways with the love of Christ to others. To assist this work, it would be wonderful if members of the parish, and indeed the wider group of churches (Heynestown, Creggan, Ballymascanlan, Bush) would be interested in helping in the outreach either for a good part of the period or in a more part time way. God has called us into His mission field and this may be an opportunity He wants you to be involved in. Please prayerfully consider this and contact Geoffrey if you have any questions or for more details.

There will be a training and information day on Saturday 24th February in the Wellington Hall for everyone interested and this will be facilitated by E3 themselves.

Come and Experience the Living Word

Bible Study

Bible Study will recommence on **Thursday 25th January at 7.30pm in St Richards side chapel, Dundalk**. Everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy fellowship together in a relaxed manner around the scriptures. Hope to see you there.

WELLINGTON HALL DUNDALK



For bookings and up to date news please visit the website.

WELLINGTON HALL
DUNDALK

Alternatively you can call Colin 086 6085662

www.wellingtonhalldundalk.com



Food Collection

DUNDALK HOMELESS SUPPORT GROUP:

Again, I wish to thank you all for your ongoing support to the homeless of Dundalk through the trolley ministry in St Nicholas' church. The generosity has been very encouraging and there is much gratitude from the support group as they continue to receive the many non-perishable items that are being donated. May I continue to highlight the need for donations particularly during this winter where many in our communities do not have bed, food or shelter. Thanking you all once again

ROOF REPAIR:

You may be aware of the thermometer in the porch of St Nicholas' church, Dundalk which is an indicator of giving towards the roof repair fund in the church. I want to thank everyone for the immense generosity in contributing to this sterling work in the many different ways that this has happened. To individuals who have given so much and to corporate means such as the candlelight carols evening which raised over €2,000, we should give hearty thanks to the wider community and parishioners of the group of parishes alike. May I continue to encourage you to donate in any way you can towards this reconstructive work. Thanking you

BIG THANKS:

I want to offer everyone my grateful thanks who were involved in services and events before and during the Christmas period in any way. None of these things happen without your help and the manner in which the work is taken on board is amazing. Teamwork and collaboration are in evidence and the blessing that others received cannot be underwhelming.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Annual Dinner at Lisdoon Restaurant in Dundalk

Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm.

All ladies, including those who are not Mothers Union members, are very welcome to come along.