



Dear Parishioners

How many cards of joyous angels with glistening trumpets heralding 'glad tidings of great joy' have you received or sent this Christmas?

It was quite an overcast day when we visited the Stockholm cathedral on 16th February 2013, resulting in this rather dull photo of what in good light is a very ornate sculpture reflecting something of the glory of heaven. The dull photo though captures some of the Christmas message, doesn't it? Christ intentionally left behind this glory as he came into a darkened, even toxic world. And **HE** is the Light that enlightens our lives and spirits. Eternal thanks be to God. *May your Christmas be Peaceful.*

Canon Adrienne



Parish Diary for December

Restrictions on numbers attending religious services no longer apply, however social distancing should continue to be observed and also mask-wearing in the church.

The 10.30am service every Sunday will continue to be live-streamed and will also be available on the Parish YouTube channel after 24 hours at www.youtube.com/channel/UCso-NPjtC4skX-mlKICJ-jA.



Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion 2 service in Church

Each Sunday

8am and 12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 4th 10.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th 10.30am
Worshipping God Together
and Gift Drive



Sunday 18th 10.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm
Candlelight
Carol Service



Wednesday 21st 7.30pm
Remembering our
Loved Ones Service



Saturday 24th **Christmas Eve**
10pm Nativity Holy Communion Service

Sunday 25th **Christmas Day**
8am The Nativity of our Lord
Holy Communion
10.30am
Family Christmas Service
12 noon The Nativity of our Lord
Holy Communion



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JOIN US
FOR CAROLS,
CANDLES, MINCE PIES
AND MULLED WINE

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18th AT 7.30pm
AT THE
PARISH CHURCH
MAIN ST RATHFARNHAM





Parish News Round-up

Sunday Club

Very important dates for your diary!

1. December 4th: Sunday Club Advent in the Parish Centre.

Focus on Getting Ready for Christmas. We will have a lovely GodVenture Countdown calendar to give families in attendance. Thanks to Lynn and the Diocese for organising this special gift.

2. December 17th: **Saturday** Christmas Tree Special 2-4pm.

We appreciate that children's sport and other activities are now competing directly with Sunday morning services, so this year we are planning a **Saturday afternoon Christmas Service for families**, with a special focus on decorating the Christmas Tree. Hopefully lots of you will be able to make this family event.

Provisional Dates for January:

January 8th: Sunday Club in the Parish Centre

January 22nd: Sunday Club in the Parish Centre

Linda O'Connor, 087 6383844

Email: linda.f.oconnor@gmail.com



Sunday Club kids made poppies on Remembrance Sunday

Toddlerzone

Good news! Good news! We bring you good news!

Well it is December after all! We are delighted to be in a position to put some dates in the diary for December and January. Though we are unable to run every week we will be open on the following dates:

December 6th and 13th, January 17th and 31st

Toddlerzone meets in the Parish Centre from 10am - 11.15am. We have some sensory play activities along with open-ended loose parts suitable for babies and toddlers followed by story and singing. An opportunity to meet other parents/caregivers in the parish and community. Slight change in that we ask you to contact us and pre-register in advance. This way we can ensure that everyone can be catered for. We have a WhatsApp group that you can then join, if you like, and keep up-to-date.

Contact Lynn 087 6957061 or Linda 087 6383844



The junior choir singing on Sunday November 20th

Confirmation Classes

Classes began with an opening service for 16 candidates and parents on 13th November. Thank you to all who are involved in reading scriptures and assisting in leading our worship every week including during the holiday season. We welcome the **Diocesan Youth Officer, Emma Fawcett**, to fill us in on diocesan youth events.

As always classes take a break over the Christmas but will recommence on 15th Jan. 6.30pm - 7.30pm in the Church.

Please do pray for *Christopher Beck, Eoin Christle, Eloise Cree, Jake Dillon, Callum Farrell, James Howe, David Johnston, Emily Kane, Aisling Kelly, Charles Kennington, Rhys Lennon, Robert McCarthy, Lainey McNally, Anna Pemberton, Carla Shirley and Jessica Sullivan* as they continue to explore how to deepen their Faith. **Adrienne**

Scouts

Christmas Trees by Scouts are back at the War Memorial Hall from December 1st!

We look forward to seeing our loyal returning customers and meeting new ones! The finest trees in South Dublin will be available until Thursday December 22nd.

If you are interested in joining 31st Rathfarnham Scouts, Venture Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, please email rathfarnhamscouts@gmail.com for more information.

Ben Conn and Leo Shorten, Patrol Leaders



Wednesday Club

Christmas outing to the Arboretum, Carlow, 7th December

A coach will leave Rathfarnham Castle Car Park at 10.30am and return at approximately 4.30pm-5pm. Cost €20 per person.

Please pay cash on the day. This trip is open to any parishioner or friend. Please phone **David 087 7826054** to reserve a place. First come, first served!

David Whyte 087 7826054.



RPNS

What a surprise the pupils received on returning to school after the mid-term break!

A brand new play ground with climbing equipment seemed to appear from nowhere ... 10 years in the planning. Thank you to the Parents Committee and all involved in fundraising. Money very well spent, I'm sure you'll agree.



The Church Review and Gazette 2023

The subscription for *Church Review* for 2023 is €40.

Please place cash or cheques (made payable to 'Pam Shorten') in the envelope provided with the December issue and post or drop into myself at 114 Longwood Park, Rathfarnham, phone 4937179 / 085 7135848 before 31st December, please.

If anyone would like to receive, or discontinue receiving, the magazine from January 2023 contact me before 2nd January.

Many thanks, Pam Shorten

The subscription for 2023 for the monthly format *Church of Ireland Gazette* will be €50 and is now due.

Please contact Andrew Shorten on 01 4937179 if you would like to take a copy.

Parish Finances

Freewill Offering Envelopes

The 2023 envelopes will be ready for collection at the back of the church from Sunday, 11th December. I would be really grateful if you could collect yours!!

Anyone wishing to opt in, or leave, the Scheme for 2023, please contact me, **Beryl Dawson**, 01 4933203 or email: rw_daws@yahoo.co.uk.

If you would like your subscriptions for the current year to qualify for the **2022 Tax Rebate Scheme**, please ensure they are all in by Sunday, 25th December! Envelopes can be left into the Parish Office if you are not in a position to attend church. **BD**

Sustentation

The Hon Treasurer, whilst acknowledging the present difficult economic climate we are in, would like to remind anyone wishing to pay sustentation, either for 2022 or 2021, to send it to the parish office, or drop it by envelope into the Sunday collection, clearly marking it **Sustentation**.

He would also like to thank very sincerely all of those regular contributors, who pay either by envelope or standing order, and is always happy to answer any financial queries that anyone may have - simply telephone or drop an email.

Jonathan Mills: jonathan.mills6@gmail.com
Mob 087 289 1483

Charity Registration and Governance Compliance

Vestry members, as trustees of the Parish, have been attending further training on governance compliance and if anyone in the parish would like to become familiar with the policies, etc, they can be accessed at:

www.charitiesregulator.ie/en/information-for-charities/charities-governance-code

Annual revision of Vestry Persons

Every January we revise the register of Vestry Persons who are eligible to vote in the **Annual Easter Vestry** and also to become office holders in the parish and wider church.

If you live in the parish bound you can be a **registered member**. If you live outside the parish you can become an **accustomed member**. Copies of the 2022 register, where you can check if you already registered, will be available from **1st - 31st January** in the church. Forms will also be available for those who wish to register.

Parish Diary for January 2023

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Each Thursday

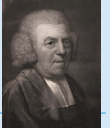
10.30am Holy Communion 2 service in Church

Each Sunday

8am and 12 noon Holy Communion 1



Sunday 1st 10.30am 'Amazing Grace' service, marking the 250th anniversary of the hymn by John Newton



Sunday 8th 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th 10.30am Worshipping God Together Family Service

Sunday 22nd 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th 10.30am Holy Communion

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At this time of year, we are always grateful for donations of new toys, books, puzzles, and toiletry gift sets for children and teenagers in need.

We are also hoping to make up **Christmas Hampers** for families in need. If you would like to donate a tin of biscuits, sweets, Christmas puddings, mince pies, selection boxes or any other luxury item, we would really appreciate it.

If you are in a position to help, please bring your gifts to church on **Sunday December 4th or 11th, or Saturday December 17th (2-4pm.)**

Please be mindful that, to maintain the magic of Christmas for children, all items must be new, and unopened if at all possible. Thank you so much.

For more information, contact either Linda (08763838440) or Catherine (087 2669066)

Thank you for your support.



CHURCH & TREE DECORATING

10AM SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER

We invite all who would like to be involved in decorating the church for Christmas to join us at 10am on Saturday 17th December.

Inevitably there will be delicious seasonal refreshments for our elevenses! This is always a very jolly event and we are looking forward to it very much!

Also this year we invite families to gather around and decorate the outdoor Christmas tree at 2pm in the church grounds. Children are invited to make ecofriendly decorations to hang on the tree.

This will be followed by lively Carol Singing and seasonal refreshments!



CAROL SERVICES

IT IS TRADITIONAL FOR THOSE WHO ATTEND CLERGY GATHERINGS TO DISPLAY THE NUMBER OF CAROL SERVICES THEY EXPECT TO TAKE THIS YEAR



THOSE WITH SINGLE DIGIT FIGURES ARE FROWNED-UPON MERCILESSLY



President Michael D. Higgins and Leo Shorten at the Remembrance Sunday Choral Evensong at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Adult dance classes have been running in the newly refurbished Parish Centre on Monday evenings since September.

A lively group of dancers have donned the blue t-shirt, pointed their toes, flexed their muscles, and exercised their brains as well as their bodies! It's great fun - and has already raised much needed funds for the Organ Refurbishment Fund and other Parish projects.

COMING SOON! WEDNESDAY MOVERS!

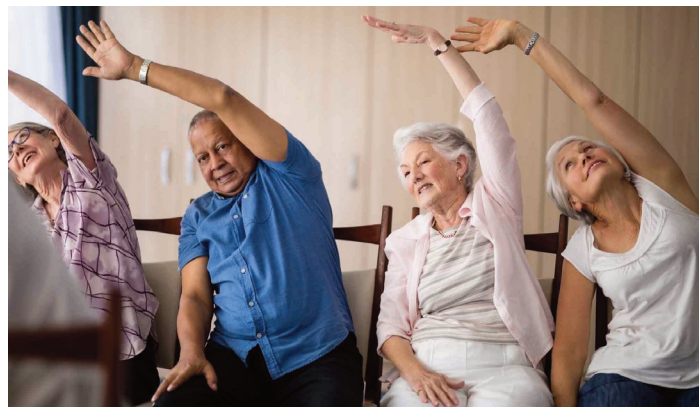
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN THE PARISH CENTRE

In January 2023, we hope to commence an exercise class on Wednesday mornings for people who, for various reasons, prefer to work from a seated position.

Great music, gentle exercise, a bit of chat and fun - do come along and give us a try!

Please contact Gillian to register your interest and to receive information re time and start date.

gillperdue@gmail.com / 087 2782850



INTRODUCING THE NEW PARISH NOTELETS and CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are delighted to introduce the Parish Notelet collection which will be on sale at the back of the church on an ongoing basis.

These cards feature close-up photographs from our very own stained-glass windows. It will be fun working out where we found the details!

We chose the beautiful golden-haired Rathfarnham Angel as our herald of Christmas tidings.

The cards come in packs of 6 and cost €10.



Rathfarnham Parish Winter Fair

On Saturday 26th November, we had our first ever WINTER FAIR in the grounds of the church.

This was a wonderful event, full of fun and interest. We hosted guest traders from the world of Vintage Market Traders, there was mulled wine, books, pancakes, and more refreshments at Claire's Café and the Hot Dog Stall, a Craft and Gift Stall, Sweet Stall, Cakes & Preserves and of course our own Pets in Pews calendar and Parish notecards. With stalls stuffed with bargains and amazing handmade crafts, and live music from the organ and choristers inside the church, it was a great family event. Also we mustn't forget **Santa Claus' Workshop** where a team of elves helped Mrs Claus organise the all-important chat with Santa himself (and boy, can he chat!). Early reports are saying that approximately €5,750 was raised on the day. That's the financial angle - but more importantly, the whole local community was involved, and we welcomed visitors from far and near into our church. *Well done to everyone involved - your hard work is much appreciated!*



From The Registers

Baptism

Max with his parents **Zara** and **Steven**, Godparents **Emma**, **Lynn** and **Joseph** and Grandparents at his baptism on 27th November. We pray God's best for Max and his family as they nurture his faith.



Funerals

The interment of **Ken Reid** in the Garden of Remembrance took place on Sunday 6th November after the 12 noon Holy Communion service. We continue to remember **Cecilie**, **Tanya**, **Stuart** and all the family in our prayers at this difficult and sad time.

Parish Library

The Parish lending library has reopened with many books to help you on your spiritual journey as Christians.

In *The Word of God* **Keith Ward**, an Anglican priest, and once Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford, interprets the Bible in the light of modern scholarship. He writes that the Bible is neither a book dictated by God, as some believe, nor just a set of outdated taboos and politically-slanted histories, as those at the opposite extreme would maintain. He writes: "Christians believe that God can use the Bible's very diverse documents, difficult but rewarding to interpret as they are, to evoke a sense of divine presence and purpose, and to lead its hearers into a closer conscious relationship with the divine mind and heart of Being."

The library is in the side-chapel, and everybody is welcome to use it, just sign your name in the notebook that you will find on the bookstand. Sanitize your hands with the gel provided before handling books and on returning a book place it in the brown envelope provided and write the date on the envelope. The book will be replaced on the shelf after at least three days (recommended time for Covid safety). **Joan Forsdyke**

Parish Contacts

Rector: Canon Adrienne Galligan, 41 Rathfarnham Road, Terenure, Dublin D6W XV62. Tel: 01 490 5543. Mobile: 086 0390866.

Email: adriennegalligan@gmail.com

Organist & Choir Director Jacqueline Mullen, Paul Mullen

Email: music.rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Diocesan Reader Joan Forsdyke 087 947 5548

Sunday Service Streaming Oversight Joan Carty, Gerry Wilson

Parish Secretary Andrew Shorten 01 490 5543

Tues/Wed/Thurs mornings 9.30am-12.30pm

Email: rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Hon Secretary Leslie Deacon 01 494 6062

Hon Treasurer Jonathan Mills 01 494 3605

Churchwardens (Rector's) George Kennington 086 836 6637

(People's) John Deacon 087 126 5325

This issue of NFY is sponsored by



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Rathfarnham Village and Grange Road

Open Sundays 12-2pm. Open late until 7pm weekdays



Parish Adult and Child Safeguarding

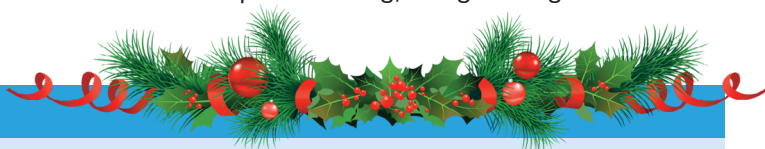
I am very grateful to Kim who reviews our vetting and procedures on a constant basis to ensure the parish is compliant, Volunteers and Leaders are regularly trained and Garda Vetting certs are kept up to date.

If you have any questions please contact **Kim Bardon** on 085 1473112. Safeguarding policies and procedures for the Church of Ireland are available here:

www.safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org

or on our own Parish Website:

www.rathfarnhamparishcoi.org/safeguarding-trust



Glebe Wardens (Rector's)	George James	087 988 8754
(People's)	Alan McMillan	087 260 1799
Stewardship	Beryl Dawson	01 493 3203
Crèche	Kim Bardon	085 147 3112
Toddlerzone	Lynn Storey	087 695 7061
Sunday Club	Linda O'Connor	087 638 3844
Good News Club	Corinna O'Dwyer	087 666 3594
WLTD?	Lynn Storey	087 695 7061
	Robert Hilliard	087 618 7058
National School	Principal Joyce Perdue	01 494 3470
Church Review	Pam Shorten	01 493 7179
Scripture Readers' Rota	Andrew Shorten	01 493 7179
News For You and Website	Joan Carty	rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com