



Dear Parishioners

While walking along the Carlingford Greenway recently I was pleasantly surprised to see construction works well under way for the **Narrow Water Bridge**. This bridge has been in the pipe line for decades! Now with the help of 158 support piles driven into the river bed, it is taking shape. The route is opening up. The way is becoming visible. I liken the support piles to the prophetic voices of scripture that heralded the coming of a Messiah who would open up the way of salvation for Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. Advent invites us to examine again these prophetic voices and promises of God, providing as they do a bridge from what we know about Jesus to what we have yet to encounter and learn relevant to our own lives, about the one who is *The Way, The Bridge, The Long Awaited One*.

Adrienne



Visiting Pilgrims



We were very pleased to welcome 22 members of St Thomas' Episcopal Parish, Terrance Park, Ohio to celebrate Holy Communion in Rathfarnham Parish Church on September 29th.

They were visiting as part of their pilgrimage to various monastic sites in the country. Their rector **Rev. Darren Elin** presided having been granted permission by the Archbishop.

Parish Diary for November

The 10.30am in-person Sunday service is also live-streamed and is available on the Parish YouTube channel after 24 hours at www.youtube.com/channel/UCso-NPjtC4skX-mKICJ-jA.



Each Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion 2 service in the Millennium Side Chapel

Each Sunday 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 2nd 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm **CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN**



Sunday 9th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**



Sunday 16th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Worshipping God Together **FAMILY SERVICE**.
7pm **CHORAL EVENSONG** with dedication of Liturgical Resources followed by refreshments.



Saturday 22nd 2.30pm - 6pm **RATHFARNHAM PARISH WINTER FAIR** in the Church, grounds, and Parish Centre.



Sunday 23rd 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2
Kingship of Christ/St. Columbanus



Sunday 30th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2
First Sunday of Advent



Harvest Thanksgiving

In a splendidly decorated church parishioners feasted their senses while worshipping our generous God on Harvest Sunday October 12th.

Generosity was also evident in the magnificent amounts of non-perishable foods donated by parishioners for people in need. Thank you to everyone for decorating, providing and distributing foods to the needy and flowers to our house-bound parishioners.

We are grateful also to **Rev David White**, Rural Dean and Rector of Zion Parish who brought the message at the Children's and Youth Organisations Harvest Celebration at the 6pm. 'Always remember, never forget to say **THANK YOU GOD.**' (JW/CMcG)



Good News Club

Improved acting and a brief script by the GN Clubbers recently enlivened the teaching from Acts 14 as we continue to examine the growth of the early church, mindful of our own diocesan growth movement currently gathering momentum. Asked recently what message our GN Clubbers have to share with friends/family about Jesus they responded: 'Jesus is alive.' 'Jesus is a good person.' 'Jesus died for our sins.' 'Jesus loves you.' Sound stuff indeed!

Good News Club continues each Tuesday evening during the school terms from 6.45pm-7.45pm for pupils in 3rd to 6th classes.

Mike 085 262 0635.



Sunday Club

We are delighted to welcome children from pre-school (beginning primary school next September 2026) to 2nd class.

We meet roughly twice a month in the Parish Centre during the 10.30am service, where we explore the Bible in a fun, child-friendly, child-centred and interactive way. If you would like your child to join us, just get in touch with me or drop in to one of our sessions to see what we're up to.

Linda O'Connor, Mobile: 087 6383844
Email: linda.f.oconnor@gmail.com



Girl Guides

Three of our Rathfarnham Girl Guides were presented with their National Guide Award in UCD O'Reilly hall on Saturday 11th October.

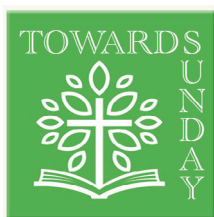
This is the highest honour in Guides and we are all very proud of (below, l to r) Rachel Doak Howe (Unit Leader) Isabella MacGarry, Rebecca Prior and Lucy Wilkin-son. For more information, please email: rathfarnhamgirlguides@gmail.com RH



Towards Sunday

The exploration of the Gospel for the forthcoming Sunday on Tuesdays 8.15-9.15pm has enabled wider discussion of the application of scripture to our context today locally and globally drawing from the lived experience of everyone who participates.

We welcome new voices and insights so please plan to join us if you can.



Toddlerzone

Toddlerzone meets on Tuesday mornings in the Parish Centre.

An inclusive group for babies and toddlers with their guardians/minders, we meet from 10am -11.30am during term-time in the Parish Centre. Refreshments included.

Please feel free to join us with your little one on Tuesdays. If you could drop me a text to let us know you're coming so we have an idea of numbers, that would be a great help.

Linda O'Connor 087 6383844



Wednesday Club

Our next meeting will be on 26th November and it will be an outing by coach to Mount Usher Gardens and also Avoca, Kilmacanogue (two centres).

Our coach will depart from Rathfarnham Castle Carpark at 10am and we intend to return by 5pm. Looking forward to seeing all our usual attendees! Any Parishioner or Friend, would be very welcome to join us.

David Whyte, 087 782 6054



Parish Library

The Parish Library has been moved to the foyer of the Parish Centre. You will find a wide variety of books for children and adults. We hope that your Christian life will be enriched by reading some of these books.

A recent addition to our library for children is *My Big Story Bible* written by Tom Wright in a style easily understood by children and beautifully illustrated by Helena Garcia.

In his introduction he writes, "One reason that I was eager to write this book is that I now have grandchildren, and as I watch them grow up and see how they respond to Bible stories, whether in church or at home, I notice many things that I don't think they are quite getting. I'd like to make available to them key points which, over the many years that I have been studying the Bible, have become very important to me.... I hope that all who read this book, will enjoy the 140 stories gathered here and enjoy exploring the many links between the stories and the way that together they build into the one big story about God's plan to make the world his home and to bring heaven and earth back together at last."

Details regarding borrowing books are on the wall to the right of the bookstand. JF



Pop-In

The Pop-In team wish to thank everyone sincerely for contributing to their recent Coffee Morning in aid of Harold's Cross Hospice.

€1000 was raised - a great result, aided by delicious tray bakes and coffee! Well done to everyone. OMCW



Confirmation 2026

Confirmation classes begin on Sunday 2nd November at 6.30pm in the Church. To register please would prospective candidates contact the Rector or Curate directly - contact details are on the back page of News For You.



You are invited to a

CHORAL EVENSONG

*with the Dedication of Liturgical Resources**
on Sunday November 16th 2025, at 7pm.

The Most Revd. Dr. Michael Jackson,
*Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough,
Primate of Ireland and Metropolitan,
will attend and dedicate the resources.*

**The Liturgical Resources are:*

The Lectern Steps (kindly gifted by the late **Alison Young**), The Memorial Garden Mosaic (crafted by **Dr. Joan Forsdyke**, funded by parishioners), and the refurbished Organ (workmanship by **Stephen Adams**, funded by parishioners, the wider community and grant-aided by **South Dublin CoCo**).

*You are warmly invited to please join us afterwards
for refreshments in the adjoining Parish Centre.*



The Meaning of the Memorial Garden Mosaic

The theme for the mosaic is Ecclesiastes 3:1
'There is a season for everything, a time for every matter under heaven'.

Images of leaves, flowers and fruit from different seasons are centred around an image of a Celtic cross, indicating that as spring follows winter so too life with Christ follows death.

This design arose from suggestions by **Gordon Wright** and the team who organised the construction of the Remembrance Garden.

The mosaic is made of stained glass, collected over the years from **Ireland, UK, USA, France, Italy, and Germany.**

The Celtic cross is based on a cross at **Clonmacnoise**; the gold pieces in its ring are from **Venice**.

The Tree of Life spreads its branches in front of the cross as in worship .

The same blue/brown glass is in the centre of the cross and the trunk of the tree symbolising that Christ is with us, sharing our life, in our joy and suffering.

The figures dancing in the water are pale and fragile compared with the strength of the cross on which we depend.

The autumn leaves, summer fruits and background around the Celtic cross are gilded with 24K gold to symbolise the light of Christ in our lives.

The mosaic is inserted into a roundel of **Wicklow granite** representing the Circle of Life.

I have found that in making a work of art based on a spiritual theme that you do not work alone; my constant prayer was 'God's hand to guide me'.

Dr. Joan Forsdyke



Winter Fair

Saturday 22nd November
2.30pm-6.00pm.

Welcome back to our annual Winter Fair in the Church grounds!

Crafts, preserves, cakes, mulled wine and mince pies, café, popcorn, toys, books, jewellery, clothes and much more...possibly even a giant elf! Live music both inside and outside the church, and some choral music too.

Calling all bakers and jam-makers - can you make some produce for these very popular stalls?

Cakes, buns, biscuits and tarts all go down so well. And we would love to expand our gluten-free range so if this is an area of baking you have experience with, we would love to hear from you.

Maybe you had a bumper crop of fruit and are looking for ways to use it up. Or you might like to donate some fruit to one of our team who would be delighted to turn it into something even more delicious.

Sweet and savoury jams, chutneys, lemon and lime curds are just some of the items in high demand so if you can help, please get in touch with one of us. If you're short of jars, let us know.

Linda 087 638 3844 for cakes. Joan 087 947 5548 for jams.

Here are a couple of dates to take note of:

From Sunday November 9th: We will be accepting donations of **jams/chutneys/marmalades and non-perishable food, preloved Christmas Decorations, Women's & Children's clothes, Crafts, Books** (recent only please), and **Good-as-New Gifts** (in good condition please) and, we will also be accepting **Toys** (in excellent condition only please).

On Friday 21st November: This will be drop-off day for all cakes/perishable items.

We will be accepting these **from and no sooner than 6:45pm onwards** into the Parish Centre Foyer.

Can you help out on a stall/with set-up/clean-up?

It's one of the Parish's most fun days of the year with a great community atmosphere and spirit so if you can spare some time to join us, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

If you can help, please contact Gill Perdue by email at gillperdue@gmail.com



From the Registers

Baptism

On Sunday 26th Oct at the 10.30am service **Iarla John Dool Mitchell** was baptised and welcomed into the Christian family. Iarla's parents are **Laurie** and **Michael**, his God-parents - **Nicolaas Dool**, **Vinny Reeves** and **Maria Mitchell**. May Iarla know the fullness of God's love for him as he grows in faith.

Funerals

On Monday 29th September at 11.30am the funeral service for **Tom Shaw** was held in Rathfarnham Parish Church followed by interment in Kilmashogue Cemetery. A huge congregation gathered around Tom's wife **Kate** and their children **Rebecca**, **Jamie** and **Ben**. The Family Tribute was delivered by Tom's sister **Jillian** and at Tom's request his friend **Robert O'Connor** sang 'The Holy City' as Tom's remains were carried out of the church. A family friend, **Fr. Frank Monks**, assisted with the service. Please continue to uphold Kate and all her and Tom's family in your prayers as they navigate this now strange new world without Tom.

On Saturday 18th October at 11am the funeral service for **Iris Kavanagh** was held in Rathfarnham Parish Church followed by interment in Mt. Venus cemetery. To a very appreciative congregation, **Linda**, Iris' daughter, delivered a very fitting Family Tribute to mark Iris' long and well lived life. We offer our condolences to Iris' family **Linda**, **Alison**, **David**, **Michael**, **Carol** and **Brian**, their spouses and families at this time of great sadness. May their deeply held faith be a source of consolation to Iris' family in these days of adjustment and grief.

Interment

On Sunday 12th Oct after the 12 noon service the family of **Paddy Roberts** gathered for Paddy's interment in the Columbarium. We continue to remember **Heather**, **Peter**, **Alan** and **David**, their spouses, families and Paddy's friends as they embark further on the hard work of grieving a much loved mother, grandmother and friend.



This issue of NFY is sponsored by



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Choir Director & Organist Jacqueline Mullen, Paul Mullen
 Email: music.rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Diocesan Readers Joan Forsdyke, Philip Middleton

Sunday Service Streaming: Gerry Wilson, Joan Carty, David Howe, Josh Farrell Morgan Bardon

Parish Secretary Kim Bardon 01 490 5543
 Monday - Friday mornings 9.30am-12.30pm
 Email: rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

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(People's)	Samantha Hall	sj73@live.ie
Glebewardens (Rector's)	George James	087 988 8754
(People's)	Alan McMillan	087 260 1799
Stewardship	Eamonn Cooke	087 709 3066
Toddlerzone	Lynn Storey	087 695 7061
Sunday Club	Linda O'Connor	087 638 3844
Good News Club	Revd Mike Buchanan	085 262 0635
National School	Principal Eoin Leonard	01 494 3470
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