



News for You

November 2020

Dear Parishioners

November, the month of remembering, captured in the poignancy of this seat in the green opposite Raphoe Cathedral.

The men and women of that era for the most part have handed responsibility for peace over to their children, their children's children and us.



And here is one example of what the school students of Northern Ireland pledge on their Peace Pledge Tree located at Ebrington Barracks Derry/Londonderry: we pledge to use our words in a kind way; to help others as the days go by; to unite in a community and create peace for one and all.

There are 399 more hopeful pledges on the tree which we could call a Tree of Life because it certainly speaks life. 400 pledges by 400 school communities. How powerful is that?

It's not only in the area of peace that communities are making pledges these days. Have we not, as a community of believers, also made a pledged to look out for the welfare of each other and the wider community in spite of the sacrifices it requires? We hunker down again. We pray even more fervently. We listen more attentively to God's word looking for clues to understand the times we are living in. All while we adapt our daily tasks to newly discovered patterns and rhythms and behaviours. How often we read in the Bible the words "And it came to pass...". May these words soon be assigned to the history of Covid 19.

Canon Adrienne



Schedule of services for November 2020 (under current Government Level 5 restrictions)

At time of writing, Level 5 restrictions are in place in Dublin from midnight on 21st October 2020 for a period of 6 weeks. The church will remain closed for Sunday and Thursday services during this time. Only **25 people** can attend **weddings** and **funerals** in the church.



#HOLDFIRM

As the 10.30am **Thursday Holy Communion** cannot happen in the church at the moment, and as Adrienne can't currently celebrate Holy Communion in parishioners' homes, Rathfarnham Parish Church will be **OPEN** from **10am - 11.30am Tuesdays and Thursdays**, should parishioners wish to spend some time there in private prayer.

Sunday 1st	10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th	10.30am Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 15th	10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd	10.30am Family Service
Sunday 29th	10.30am Service of the Word



Every Sunday

The 10.30am Sunday service in Church will also be available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCso-NPjtC4skX-mIKICJ-jA



Confirmation 2021

After mid-term we usually begin our Confirmation preparation classes. While no dates have been issued by the Archbishop's office for confirmation services in 2021, classes can still go ahead but probably by Zoom at the moment.

Could I ask parents of prospective candidates please to email me (adriennegalligan@gmail.com) if your son/daughter is interested and we can start the enrolment process. Thank you. *The Rector*

Charities Regulator

With 2021 fast approaching and the requirement that we submit annual reports to the Charities Regulator, a sub-committee has been set up to progress this responsibility.

The subcommittee are **Valerie Henderson, Rebecca Middleton, George Kennington, David Howe** and the **Rector**.

If you would like to find out more about this aspect of parish governance please visit this website for an overview: <https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en/information-for-charities/charities-governance-code>

Parish News Round-up

Good News Club

We plan to start back on Zoom on Tuesdays at the usual time of 6.45pm.

5th and 6th class will 'meet' on the **3rd Nov, 17th Nov, 1st Dec.**

3rd and 4th class will 'meet' on the **10th Nov, 24th Nov and 8th Dec.**

Forms for 2020-2021 are on their way to last year's attendees and we welcome new members from classes 3rd - 6th. So please get in touch with **Corinna 087663594** if you would like a form.



Sunday Crèche

Even with current restrictions in place the leaders of the parish children's groups continue to work behind the scenes on exciting things.

This term would have seen some of our little ones starting Pre-School/Montessori and moving up from Crèche to Sunday Club. Sunday Club is still running by Zoom and Linda is doing a marvelous job at inspiring and encouraging the children, teaching them stories from the Bible through fun games, craft, songs and short videos.

Remember, we are only a phone call away so if you would like to know more about Crèche contact me, **Kim Bardon 085 147312**, for **TODDLERZONE Heather Wilkinson: 087 929 1990** and **SUNDAY CLUB: Linda 087 638 3844**. Stay Safe everyone! Kim.



Toddlerzone

Another month further on and we still have not met face to face yet!

Hang in there and make contact if you are pregnant or have a little one (or ones!) of 0 - 3 years and would like to be put in contact with like-minded people in the Parish. Just **WhatsApp Heather on 087 9291990** and introduce yourself and we will do our best from there.

The Crèche and Toddlerzone cover children from 0 - 3 years. We also include mums-to-be who are presently at home and would like someone to talk to. The days can be long if you are there on your own. We would love to help if we can. Do give us a try!

November Birthdays

We have three little people who will be 1 year old in November. We hope that **Croia F, Robyn S** and **Ben M** all enjoy their birthdays when they come. If we have left anyone out please let Heather know and I do apologise in advance! Please make allowances for the times that are in it!

Heather Wilkinson 087 9291990 Kim Bardon 085 1473112 and Susan Christie



WLTD0?

Who Let The Dads Out? (or WLTD0 for short) is a group activity for Dads and children who usually meet in the Parish Centre. Since Covid reared its nasty head we have pooled our resources and organised activities together so keep your eye out for further action. There are plans afoot for a joint activity in November. We will let you know the details. Contact **Lynn Storey on 087 6957061**.



Ordinand Placement

I am delighted to welcome Mr. Martin Steele to Rathfarnham Parish for a 10-week placement. .

Dear friends,

The Rector has asked me to write a brief biography by way of an introduction. May I assure you all that I shall indeed cut to the chase and not meander through the realms of digression.

I am a full time Ordinand, currently engaged in my second year of study. God willing, I shall be made a Deacon in the summer of 2021. I live permanently within the bounds of the old Divinity Hostel.

I hail from the Diocese of Connor, the Parish of All Saints' Eglantine which is near to the Sprucefield Shopping Center. My home parish is the most southerly in the diocese as the neighboring village of Hillsborough is in the Diocese of Down and Dromore. I am a native of the City of Belfast, from the east of the city, in the townland of Ballyhackamore. I have lived in Scotland and various parts of Ireland. I read Divinity at Aberdeen and received my BD in 2012. I have worked in various administration roles including as a Development Manager in Audience Services. The role consisted of dealing with complaints, queries, and the odd appreciation related to BBC output.

I have spent time in the Episcopal Church of Scotland and in different parishes across this island. I am very much looking forward to my time in Rathfarnham and working with Canon Galligan. Being with you all is contributing to my formation for priesthood and helping me to discern what it is that God is calling me to do.

All good wishes, Martin



Harvest

We would like to say a very sincere THANK YOU to the **Ballyroan Men's Shed** who supplied us with vegetables from their allotment for our harvest display this year.

Leeks, beetroot, carrots, kale, cabbage, tomatoes - all freshly dug/picked and oozing with goodness! A sight to behold. Thank you also to **June** and **Carol** for exquisite floral arrangements too. Because of restrictions we were unable to gather a team together to decorate as usual but we were all able to enjoy the display and flowers thanks to the camera and live-streaming of the services.



Sunday Club



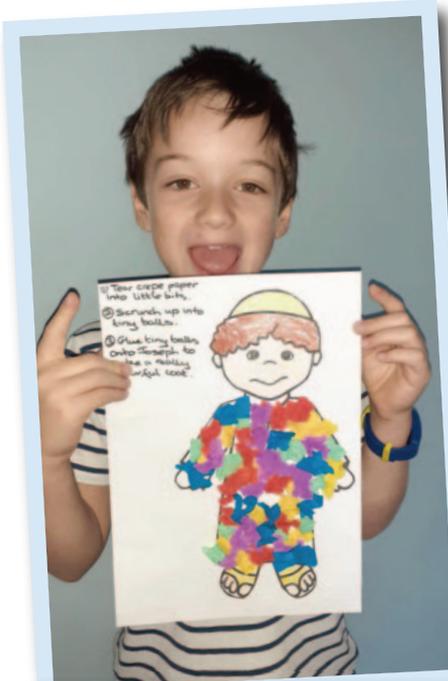
Sunday Club has settled into a nicely established pattern on Zoom. Everyone gets a pack in advance of each session containing colouring, puzzles, and a craft related to that week's theme. And maybe a little treat. So far this term we have been busy learning all about Superheroes in the bible, including Abraham & Sarah, Moses & Miriam, and Joseph. And of course, Harvest - you will see from the pictures below that we have some young, very talented gardeners in our parish! The children planted the seeds themselves, tended to them perfectly, then got to show them to us at the next session. Didn't they do a great job? Well done and thank you to all those that read so beautifully for the Harvest service.

We welcome children from pre-school (starting school in Sept 2021) to 2nd class so if your child would like to join us, just give me a buzz or message me on 087 6383844. **Linda and the Team**

Dates for November

Sunday 8th: Zoom Sunday Club at 11am
Sunday 22nd: Zoom Sunday Club at 11am

Harvest 2020 vegetables from Ballyroan Men's Shed allotment.



Covid 19

At the vestry meeting on the 8th Oct, 4 members offered to serve as Covid 19 Compliance Officers.

Gillian Perdue and George James are fulfilling this role for the War Memorial Hall, Alan McMillan for the Parish Centre and John Deacon for the Church. Although the Hall and Parish Centre are not in use (apart from Little Smarties) at time of writing we are processing applications for the possible return of some groups. The documents sought are: *the completed booking form, Covid 19 protocol, risk assessment, cleaning checklist, insurance, safety statement, signed rules and regulations and if the organisation works with children or vulnerable adults we look for the Child and Vulnerable Adult safety statement.* As well as John, Alan, George and Gillian, the Covid 19 sub-committee are Leslie Deacon, Joan Forsdyke, Gerry Wilson, Jonathan Mills and the Rector. We would like to thank everyone who has submitted their documentation to date.

Thank You Ballyroan Men's Shed

Following on from the recent appeal to replace a stolen bicycle for a young man unable to use public transport to get to hospital appointments, we would like to sincerely thank **Ballyroan Men's Shed** for their generous donation of this great new bike for Hamza!



The Social Media Debate

Some recent conversations I have had with parishioners honed in on social media and in the Rural Deanery it has generated some debate too. Rev. Martin (O'Connor) has captured some of the concern in this article.

How much do we care about Privacy?

The advertising agency known as Facebook is one of the most powerful and influential companies in the world. It sells the data that its users freely provide to companies who want to reach them to sell their products. Its aim is to gain user attention so that people spend more time on the platform which allows it to obtain more usable data about them. A largely ignored internal memo to senior executives at the company in 2018 explained: *"Our algorithms exploit the human brain's attraction to divisiveness."* Left unchecked, the algorithms will feed users *"more and more divisive content in an effort to gain user attention and increase time on the platform"*.

The Netflix documentary *The Social Dilemma* includes material provided by former insiders with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google, and YouTube. The film describes the damaging effect of social media on children and young people. Its contributors suggest that the platforms have contributed to increased levels of depression and reduced feelings of self-worth among young people in the United States.

Space does not permit me to go into more detail about the issues facing us when we use social media platforms.

I would recommend that those with access to Netflix view the film and then decide if they want their children or themselves to continue to use Facebook and similar platforms.

I would also recommend that the film be shown to youth groups in the Parish. **Rev. Martin O'Connor**



Material for the **December** issue of the Church Review and News For You should be sent to the Rector by **12th November**. **Please email your contributions to** rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com and adriennegalligan@gmail.com

Parish Contacts

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Hon Secretary Leslie Deacon 01 494 6062

Hon Treasurer Jonathan Mills 01 494 3605

Stewardship Beryl Dawson 01 493 3203

Churchwardens (Rector's) Rebecca Middleton 01 493 0687

(People's) John Deacon 087 126 5325

Glebe wardens (Rector's) George James 087 988 8754

(People's) Alan McMillan 087 260 1799

Organist & Choir Director Jacqueline Mullen, Paul Mullen

Email: music.rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Crèche Kim Bardon 085 147 3112

Toddlerzone Heather Wilkinson 01 494 7930

Sunday Club Linda O'Connor 087 638 3844

Good News Club Corrina O'Dwyer 087 666 3594

National School Principal Joyce Perdue 01 494 3470

Church Review Pam Shorten 01 493 7179

Scripture Readers' Rota Andrew Shorten 01 493 7179