



Dear Parishioners

Isn't it amazing how it all comes together?

That may be so but behind the scenes and for weeks on end, Gillian & Co. were choreographing all the elements that make up the Winter Fair - stallholders, volunteers, music providers, gazebo mounters, light installers, prize donors, space transformers, car parking, charity box collectors, security, tidy-uppers and, dovetailing with SDCC and the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights in Rathfarnham Village by Cllr Lynn and Andrew! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and all who attended or participated in any way. Socially it was a super community and Parish day!

Have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year everyone!

Adrienne

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

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st at 7.30pm
AT THE
PARISH CHURCH
MAIN ST. RATHFARNHAM



Parish Diary for December/January

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
NO service Thursday January 1st.

Each Sunday 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 7th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Confirmation Class

Sunday 14th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Worshipping God Together
Christingle Service
6.30pm Confirmation Class

Thursday 18th 7pm Remembering Loved Ones Service

Sunday 21st 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2
7.30pm **Candlelight Carol Service**

Wednesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
10pm Nativity Holy Communion

Thursday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
8am Holy Communion 1
10.30am Family Christmas Service
12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 28th 10.30am Holy Communion 2

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026**

Sunday 4th 10.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th 10.30am Holy Communion 2
6.30pm Confirmation Class

Sunday 18th 10.30am Worshipping God Together
6.30pm Confirmation Class

Sunday 25th 10.30am Holy Communion 2
6.30pm Confirmation Class

ALSO
Tuesdays 11.45am-12.45pm Millennium Side Chapel
December 2nd, 9th & 16th - Parish Prayers
8.15-9.15pm Millennium Side Chapel
December 2nd & 9th - Advent Study

Good News Club

Good News Club members knocked the Greek gods off their pedestals this month. We continued discovering the terrain travelled and the opposition faced by Paul on his missionary journeys.

Good News Club continues each Tuesday evening during the school terms from 6.45pm-7.45pm for pupils in 3rd to 6th classes. **December GNC dates are 2nd and 9th.**

Mike 085 262 0635.



Sunday Club

For the past couple of months in Sunday Club we've been exploring the lives of some of the Superheroes from the Bible.

There are so many to choose from and it was a difficult decision, but we chose Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, Miriam and Moses. Now we move into preparations for Christmas and reminding ourselves of the birth and life of the greatest Superhero of them all. Happy Christmas!

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.

Dates for your Diary: Sunday Club in the Parish Centre

2025: Sunday December 7th

2026: Sunday January 11th, Sunday January 25th.

Linda O'Connor, Mobile: 087 6383844

Email: linda.f.oconnor@gmail.com



Confirmation 2026

We welcomed 14 candidates to the classes which began on 2nd Nov and are held in the Church 6.30pm-7.30pm on Sunday evenings.

One familiar liturgical word we have focused on so far is the word 'Glory' which elicited many interesting concepts, questions and discussion. Candidates are also taking on roles of responsibility on Sundays at the services and we welcome this participation very much. Please do encourage the candidates as they explore their faith and ours.



Toddlerzone

Tuesday mornings in the Parish Centre have been super busy for the last couple of months.

Some of the themes we've had lots of fun with include Transport, Autumn, The Farm, Halloween, Construction, and a firm favourite, Dinosaurs. We were fortunate and grateful to have received a small grant from SDCC which enabled us to add some high-quality sensory equipment to our resources.

Toddlerzone has now reached full capacity so if you would like to join us for some sensory play, story and sing-along, please get in touch in advance. **We meet most Tuesday mornings during school term in the Parish Centre from 10-11.15am.** We welcome babies and toddlers with their mums, dads, grannies, grandads and minders, to name just a few, and would love to see you.

Happy Christmas from all the team - Linda, Lynn, Helen, Julie and Susan.

December Dates: Tuesdays 2nd and 9th.

January Dates: 13th, 20th and 27th. Linda 087 6383844



Pop-In

Thursday 13th Nov was a very significant day when Heather Wilkinson handed over the Pop-In keys to her worthy successor Orla MacWilliam, after 30 years of welcome and ministry and roughly 1200 coffee mornings!



Heather has been a stalwart of our group since sometime in the 1990s, ably assisted by Susan Christie. We had a chance to express our huge thanks to Heather as she steps back to being an honoured guest for her double choc mocha at our future Pop Ins. Many a fundraiser coffee morning was steered to great success by Heather and her team as well as local birthday celebrations marked with candles and cake. Fittingly, cake too marked Heather's retirement.

As usual, we'll be in the Parish Centre between 11 and 12 every (most) Thursdays. Our last meet up before Christmas will be **Thursday 11th December**. We'll be back on **Thursday 8th January 2026**. Join us any Thursday. **The Pop In Team**



Girl Guides

We have had a wonderful start to Ladybirds this year welcoming 8 new ladybirds from junior infants.



We have been busy bugs working together in the War Memorial Hall on our friendship badge and celebrating Halloween. We have also had fun out and about in St. Enda's park on a magical fairy scavenger hunt and up in Cruagh Wood building shelters with the Brownies. Lots more fun to come, Hilary.



Church Review 2026

The subscription for 'Church Review' for 2026 remains at €45. Please place cash or cheques (made payable to 'Pam Shorten') in the envelope provided with the December issue and put on church collection plate, post or drop into myself at 114 Longwood Park, Rathfarnham, phone 01 493 7179 / 085 713 5848 before 31st December. If anyone would like to receive or discontinue receiving the magazine from January 2026, contact me before 4th January. Many thanks, Pam Shorten.

Church Gazette 2026

The subscription for the monthly format 'Church of Ireland Gazette' for 2026 remains at €52.50. Please place cash or cheques (made payable to 'Andrew Shorten') in the envelope provided with the December issue, put on church collection plate, or post (114 Longwood Park, Rathfarnham) or give it to Andrew. New subscriptions welcome! Many thanks, Andrew Shorten.

Christmas Toys & Gifts Appeal

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 7th & 14th.**

Please be mindful that to maintain the magic of Christmas for children, all items must be new, and un-open if at all possible.

Thank you so much. For more information, contact either Linda (087 638 3844) or Catherine (087 266 9066).



Choral Evensong

There was a huge turnout in the Parish on Sunday evening November 16th for our Choral Evensong and Dedication of Liturgical Resources. It was also an opportunity for many of you to hear the refurbished organ put through its paces by Paul, accompanying Jacqueline and the choir. We were delighted to have the **Most Revd. Dr. Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin**, present for the dedications.

Afterwards there was a very well attended reception in the Parish Centre and it was great to see so many of you enjoying the refreshments and chat. Huge thanks to all involved in organising the evening.



Dedication of Dr. Joan Forsdyke's Memorial Garden Mosaic.



The Archbishop with Assistant Churchwarden Scoobie.



Canon Adrienne with Cllr. Lynn McCrave FG and Minister of State Colm Brophy FG.



Parish Picture Gallery



2025 Winter Fair, Saturday November 22nd.

Well they're saying it runs like a well-oiled machine, and certainly the Winter Fair 2025 cranked into gear and drew large crowds to the churchyard on a mercifully clear, dry November afternoon last Saturday.

RUGGS (Rathfarnham Ukulele Group) thrilled us with their lively music, gathering at the church gates waiting for the **big switch-on of the village lights**. There was mulled wine and hot chocolate - with a chocolate fountain too. There were bargains aplenty on the gift and toy stalls, the popcorn popped and there was magic in the air.

Inside the parish centre the Café was hopping and as ever, the cake stall and larder stole the show though the book stall gave them plenty of competition. Our guest traders were in action both outside and inside the church building, and we were delighted to have them back again. We were serenaded by wonderful recorder music from the **Society of Recorder Players Ireland**. Huge thanks to the wonderful **Women's Shed** and to **Rathfarnham Tidy Towns** who had spent weeks knitting and crafting the churchyard lavender into gorgeous little parcels and bags, to **David Meredith** for the handmade lavender soap, to **Kim McCrave** for all the face painting. Thank you to **Mrs Claus** and **Elf** for shaking the buckets for our charity partners this year (**MSF Ireland** and **The Samaritans**) and massive thanks to those of you who donated raffle prizes and to all the businesses in the village who contributed to the **Rathfarnham Village Hamper** which included **Bijou Restaurant**, dinner at the **Dáil**, vouchers from **The Window Box** and **The Studio Café**, treats from **Rowans** and lots more. Thanks also to **Teegan's Treats**, **McCormack's Jewellers**, **31st Rathfarnham Scouts** and everyone for further wonderful raffle prizes.

Thanks to the set-up team, the clean-up team, the counting team, the helpers, the unseen bakers, makers and crafters - all deserve a massive, massive thank you for making this year's Winter Fair such a brilliant success.

Though there is still some adjustment of figures as monies come in and invoices go out, it seems that we raised just over **€9,000**, of which €1,000 each will be going to our charity partners. Well done one and all! *Gill Perdue*





Parish Picture Gallery



From the Registers

Funerals

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of **Jean Burges** who died on the 18th Nov and whose funeral service was held in Rathfarnham Parish Church on 24th Nov followed by a service of committal in the Victorian Chapel Mt Jerome. May Jean's sons **Andrew** and **Bruce**, her daughter **Carolyn** and all Jean's family, neighbours and friends find that in their grief the prayers of God's people give them strength in the coming weeks and months.

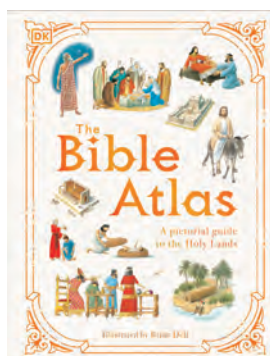
We also offer our deep condolences to the family of **Gordon Poff** who died on the 18th Nov and whose funeral was held in Rathfarnham Parish Church on the 25th Nov followed by a service of committal in the Garden Chapel Mt Jerome. We uphold Gordon's son **Nigel** and his daughters **Karen**, **Avril** and **Janet** and all his family and friends in our prayers as they now have to adapt to a very different family landscape.

Parish Library

New acquisition:

The Bible Atlas. A pictorial Guide to the Holy lands, Illustrated by Brian Delf is beautifully illustrated with maps, pictures and photographs and gives a colourful insight into the world behind the Bible both culturally and geographically.

The maps with inset pictures show where key events narrated in the Old and New Testaments took place such as, God giving Moses the Ten Commandments, the miracles and parables of Jesus and the journeys of St Paul. The book is a lively and interesting introduction to the Bible for children. JF



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Rathfarnham Parish N.S.

Christmas Fair 2025

Friday 5th December
 from 8.20 a.m. - 12 noon

BAKED GOODS & CAKES

SWEETS

TEA & COFFEE

BOTTLE STALL

GIFTS

FACE PAINTING

...and much, much more!

Winter Hymns for Gaza at St. Philip's

Temple Road, Dartry, Do6 AX71

Friday December 5th at 7:30pm

Featuring Sandford and St Philip's Choral Union and Friends in a celebration of much-loved hymns with a collection on the night for The Red Cross Gaza Appeal.



St. Mary's Crumlin Christmas Concert

St Mary's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12

Tuesday December 16th at 7pm

Featuring King's Hospital School Choir in a special evening of Christmas music and carols. Tickets €12. Refreshments and Monster Raffle afterwards.



Parish Contacts

Rector: Canon Adrienne Galligan, 41 Rathfarnham Road, Terenure, Dublin D6W XV62. Tel: 01 490 5543. 086 039 0866
 Email: adriennegalligan@gmail.com

Curate Assistant: Revd Mike Buchanan. 085 262 0635
 Email: revmikebuchanan@gmail.com

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

Diocesan Readers Joan Forsdyke, Philip Middleton

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

Parish Secretary Kim Bardon 01 490 5543
 Monday - Friday mornings 9.30am-12.30pm

Email: rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Hon Secretary Andy Kyle 086 385 5279

Hon Treasurer Jonathan Mills 087 289 1483

Churchwardens (Rector's) Dermot Cochran 087 445 4183
(People's) Samantha Hall sj73@live.ie

Glebe wardens (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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