



The Grouped Parishes of
 Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion
St Philip & St James' Church
 & **St Thomas' Church**



CHRISTMAS 2022 NEWSLETTER



It is wonderful to plan for Christmas without wrecking my brain over socially-distanced seating plans, spreadsheets, booking-in plans, etc.!!! This year, we are able to have all the services that we usually have, we can sing all those well-loved carols and celebrate the Birth of Christ and all that that means for us, and to us. And it's not just about being able to enjoy ourselves and celebrate with more ease and freedom, it is about gathering together, being in each other's presence which is a much more treasured gift than any presents. It is about taking the essence of Christmas and the message of Christmas, out of churches and homes and into the community and doing things like carol singing in aid of the Dublin SIMON Community—see page 10; helping Santa along with the Capuchin Day Centre and the Alice Leahy Trust—see page 11; helping the work of Protestant Aid—see page 10. Then we really are *doing* Christmas.

The horror of what is happening in Ukraine reminds us sharply that life is precious, and that the message of *Peace and goodwill to all people* which is at the heart of God coming to the world in the Baby Jesus, is needed now more than ever... we have seen how that message which we hear each Christmas is so important, for the stability, harmony and well-being of all with whom we share this earthly home. That message was at the heart of the Christmas Truce that took place on 24-25 December 1914, when a series of widespread unofficial ceasefires took place on the Western Front of World War One. The message of Christmas was bigger than the war. We need the message of Christmas, the message of Christ to be heard far and wide, and to influence, so that human life is treated as sacred, that human rights are respected and that we all take responsibility for those human rights to be a reality for all. So, this Christmas, let us grab Christmas by both hands and enthusiastically gather and celebrate that message which is so essential for our broken world.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard in our parish communities over the past year to make a difference in a myriad of ways: the Select Vestries, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, Safeguarding Trust Panel members; those who clean the churches, arrange flowers, decorate the churches, welcome people, read, make tea and coffee, cook sausages and wedges, manage halls/parish centres, fix and mend things, etc.

Thank you too to those who have volunteered to be Sunday Club leaders. The process of Garda vetting has taken longer than we would have liked but we are looking forward to our Sunday Clubs restarting in the New Year.

Thank you one and all!

Alan and I wish you a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Gillian

RECTOR:
The Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

Tel: 01-2887118
 087-2300767

Email:
booterstown@dublin.anglican.org

Visit us anytime at
booterstownchurch.ie
mountmerrionchurch.ie

For all **bookings** for the **Monk Gibbon Hall, (St Thomas' Church Hall):**
 T: 087-1849870 on Monday-Friday, 9.00-13.00 hours.
 E: monkgibbonhall@gmail.com

For all **bookings** for **St Philip and St James' Parish Centre:**
 T: 086-8157748 or 086-1780653



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday 16th December 2022

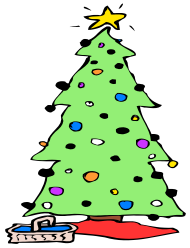
Boosterstown National School Carol Service

This will take place at 12.00 in St Philip and St James' Church. All are welcome to this service. We would ask parents to bear in mind that this is a carol service and therefore is an act of worship, not a concert. The service is followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall organised by the parents.



Sunday 18th December 2022

'A Quiet Christmas'

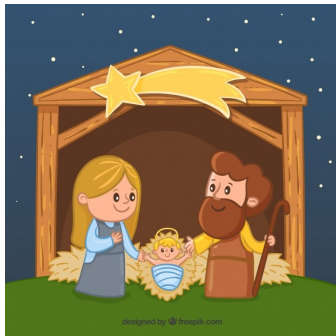


'A Quiet Christmas' will be in St Thomas' Church at 10.00. This is a service specially designed for those who may want a more meditative approach to Christmas, or who, for differing reasons—possibly bereavement or illness or whatever—may find the 'razz-ma-tazz' of Christmas a bit over-powering. As you might imagine, 'quiet' and 'children' do not normally go together(!), so we are asking parents to bring their children to the all-singing, all-dancing Christingle Service that morning in St Philip and St James' Church at 11.00.



Christingle Service

The Christingle Service is in St Philip and St James' Church at 11.00. This is always a very special service, using the old Moravian custom of Christingles.



Carols by Candlelight

will be at 19.00 hours, in St Philip and St James' Church and will be followed by mulled wine - mindful of being responsible towards those who will be driving, there will also be non-alcoholic mulled wine - and mince pies, in the Parish Centre. This is always a wonderful Service as we lead into the celebration of Christmas, and this year, we can all sing!!! There will be a collection in aid of Protestant Aid—see page 10.



Saturday 24th December 2022 - Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, there will be the usual Candlelight Service of Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church, at 23.30 hours, to which Santa and ALL his helpers will be very welcome!

Christmas Day

On Christmas Day, there will be the usual services to celebrate Christmas:

- 8.30 in St Philip and St James' Church
- 10.00 in St Thomas' Church
- 11.00 in St Philip and St James' Church.

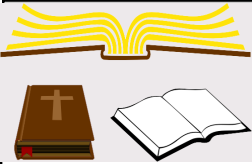


Sunday 1st January 2023

- 10.00 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church and
- 11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church.

Please note that there will be no 8.30 Holy Communion Service.





REGISTERS



Holy Baptism

Philip Erich Micheál Varlashkin-Scheld, the younger son and fifth child of Christine Varlashkin-Scheld and Ilya Varlashkin, and younger brother of Elena, Alexey, Sophia and Tara, was baptised in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 2nd October 2022. His Dad did the reading. Philip's godparents are Katharina Scheld (who joined us via Zoom for the baptism as she was unable to travel from Germany), Alexey Ulisov and Svetlana Ulisova.



Philip with his family and godparents after his Baptism in St Thomas' Church.



Rosie with her parents and her sister after her Baptism in St Philip and St James' Church.

Rosie Alana Ruddock, the younger daughter of Rebecca Case and Daniel Ruddock, and younger sister of Robyn, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 16th October 2022. Big sister Robyn helped pour the water and two of her godparents, Julie and Evan did the readings. Rosie's godparents are Julie Watchorn, Kate Agnew and Evan Matthew.

Luke Gerard Flanagan, the younger son of Claire (née Metcalfe) and Steve Flanagan and younger brother of Ben and Lucy, was baptised in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 13th November 2022. Luke's siblings, Ben and Lucy, poured the water into the font. His Dad and his Uncle John did the readings. Luke's godparents are Katy Ryan (née Metcalfe), John Metcalfe, Paul Ryan and Lynsey Flanagan.



Luke with his family and some of his godparents after his Baptism in St Thomas' Church.

We wish Philip, Rosie and Luke every blessing as they journey through life.

REGISTERS continued...

Interment of Ashes

The ashes of **Suzanne Mary Kilroy (née Webb)** who died on 18th April 2022, were interred in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance on Sunday 25th September 2022. We continue to hold her husband Karl, their daughters Kate, Isabelle and Anna, her mother Jackie and her siblings Carolyn, Andrea and Rowan and all the extended Kilroy and Webb families, in our prayers.

The ashes of **Patricia Ann Jermyn Byrne née Dunn** who died on 4th September 2022, were interred in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November 2022. We continue keep her children Fionnuala, Caitriona, Sinead, Angela, and Hugh and their families in our prayers.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to all those who are grieving at this time:

Catherine Madden on the death of her mother; Mary Ann.
Azelle Buttimore on the death of her sister-in-law, Hilary.

We continue to hold the McWilliam and Hanley Families in our hearts and in our prayers, as they grieve for Daragh Hanley whose death comes just five months after that of his father-in-law Michael McWilliam. Our deepest sympathy to Daragh's wife Tara, his son Dylan, his parents Doreen and Paraig, his siblings Elaine, Ciaran and Barry, his mother-in-law Myrtle, and all the family circle.

DECORATING THE CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS



Both churches will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 17th December 2022, 10.30-12.00. Help would be very much appreciated, as would donations of holly, ivy, poinsettias, flowers, etc., and we are always delighted to see people come along towards the end ready to sweep up and tidy up after the decorators have been at work!

Thank you too to Hartney-Spence family who are looking after erecting and decorating the Christmas Tree in St Thomas' Church and to Mike Hayes who erects the Christmas Tree in St Philip and St James' Church and to Denise Richards and Viola Brady who decorate it.



HEALER PRAYER GROUP

Each month, or thereabouts, there is a time of prayer for those who have asked for prayer, or for whom prayer has been requested. During COVID, we moved our Healer Prayer Group online and meet via Zoom and this suits people who do not want to travel out in the evening. We meet at 19.00 and it lasts 40-45 minutes: the people on the Healer Prayer Group List are prayed for, and the list is updated and fresh lists are placed in each church the following Sunday, for people to take away and to use. Those who take the list, are asked to pray for everyone on the list each day. In addition, in each church, there are sheets, where the names of anyone whom you would like to be prayed for, may be added. Details are announced in the weekly newsheet.

We would particularly ask those who put names on the Prayer Request Lists to join the Healer Prayer Group as it is always good to hear how those who are being prayed for, are getting on.

Each person's name will remain on the list for 3 months and will then be taken off unless there is a new request for prayers to continue.



25th DUBLIN SCOUT GROUP

As we approach Christmas, we are happy to report that normality has been restored after a very unusual few years. We have had an outstanding term with our 12 Beavers, 18 Cubs and 24 Scouts.

Beavers have been busy in the outdoors, examining natural habitats, exploring by day and by night, while learning what to wear in all weathers. They joined the Cubs at Hallowe'en for a wonderful day in Powerscourt where they cooked 'spooky spiders' on trangias (outdoor stoves). The highlight of that day, however, was the exploration of Headless Harry's Hole, an underground winding tunnel, that almost all our members were daring enough to attempt, not only once but five times! The fact that it was very muddy inside only added to their smiles as they emerged!



Cubs have focused on backwoods activities this term, learning about safe fire lighting and cooking with few utensils. Our visit to Dun Laoghaire fire station was a resounding success when the Cubs got a chance to activate a fireman's powerful hose, be lifted high up into the air on an extended ladder hoist, and have a short trip in a fire engine.

During Science week were invited to our local Kilmacud Group for a lot of explosive and interactive fun with other members of our 3

ROCK Scout County, where they constructed rockets powered by dry-ice to name but one activity!

As part of our service to the community, Cubs went litter picking in the neighbourhood. They will be joined next week by members of the other Mount Merrion Cubs (86th) to undertake a night hike in the area of Larch Hill. Each Cub will bring, to our end of term campfire evening, a gift for a child supported by the SVP, in time for Christmas.

The highlight of the year for our Scout troop is that the proposed trip to Iceland, scheduled originally for 2020, is going ahead in July 2023. That has given great focus to the programme. The 38 members travelling are busy honing their camping, backwoods and pioneering skills in preparation for this big adventure. The party will include members of our newly formed Rover unit (18-21 year olds) who were Venture Scouts at the time of the original trip. We do not have a Venture Unit this year. It will re-form when the older Scouts move on next September.

None of this would be possible without our team of sixteen enthusiastic, generous leaders who give endlessly of their time and energy.

We wish all parishioners a very happy and healthy Christmas!



Lesley Rankin
Group Leader



CLEANING THE CHURCHES

We are indebted to the two teams of volunteers—one team in each church—who clean the churches on a rota basis. No one ever notices the churches looking spick and span but everyone notices when they are not 'up to scratch' so thank you to those who clean, Hoover and polish.

Some new faces would be great—you only end up doing it about once a quarter. June Burgess co-ordinates the rota for St Philip and St James' Church and Sheila Chamberlain co-ordinates the rota for St Thomas' Church. It is always good to get more volunteers—many hands make light work and the idea is that with the rota and many volunteers, you only have to clean two or three times a year.



Please contact June at 086-8157748 or Sheila at 086-3320072.

BANK DETAILS and STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

Both select vestries wish to record their thanks to those who, in difficult times, have been very generous in their giving to the parishes and have adapted their method of giving due to COVID-19—all very much appreciated. A number of people have requested the bank details of the respective parishes in order to finalise their giving before the year-end. The information is below.

St Philip and St James' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Quentin Teggin (qteggin@gmail.com)
 IBAN: IE51 BOFI 9010 2887 8916 34 BIC: BOFIE2D
 ACCOUNT NAME: PARISH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES

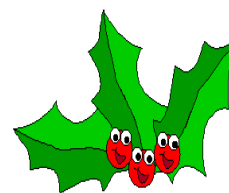


St Thomas' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Ian Mullen (ianwmullen23@gmail.com)
 IBAN: IE22 AIBK 9335 7015 2550 13 BIC: AIBKIE2D
 ACCOUNT NAME: ST THOMAS' CHURCH

Stewardship Envelopes

If you wish to have a box of stewardship envelopes for 2023, please contact the Honorary Treasurers above.



Collections

We will be resuming taking up collections in December. But we do recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, so please feel free and comfortable not to put any collection in the basket.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

The parishes' Christian Meditation Group takes place on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.30pm. It usually meets on Zoom, but once a month, it meets in-person in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre.

Men and women from all walks of life come together to express a desire for deeper meaning to their lives through meditating together.

The World Community for Christian Meditation follows the teachings of John Main OSB and over 2000 meditation groups meet in 115 countries around the world each week.

Contact: Irene 087-2755423

Discover more: www.christianmeditation.ie www.wccm.org



WELCOME for NEW PARISH PRIEST



On Sunday 9th October 2022, Monsignor O'Carroll was welcomed as the new Parish Priest of the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown at a special 'Welcome Mass' in the Church of the Assumption. As the 'Welcome Mass' was at 11.00, the Rector and the Presbyterian Minister, the Rev. Andrew Gill, was not able to attend the Mass but extended a welcome on behalf of the other Christians in the area to Monsignor O'Carroll at the refreshments following the Mass.

For the first time, there will be no resident parish priest in the Church of the Assumption; Monsignor O'Carroll has been the Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart Church in Donnybrook for a couple of years, and is now also the Parish Priest of the Church of the Assumption in Booterstown.

Fr. Gerry Kane became the Parish Priest for the Church of the Guardian Angels on Newtownpark Avenue and of the Church of Our Lady, Queen of Succour, Foxrock during the summer.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Each year, Elm Park Golf and Sports Club holds an ecumenical service, in the Clubhouse, to remember the members and friends of the Club who have died in the previous year. The families of those who have died are invited to the service and it is very much appreciated by them. The Elm Park Choir—yes! They have a choir! - sings at the service. Having arrived in our parishes at the end of October 2004, it was one of the first ecumenical and community events that I was asked to participate in, and it has been a pleasure to do so every year since, apart from 2020. as there was no service in 2020 due to COVID. Last year, in order to be able to have social-distancing, the service was held in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Donnybrook with Monsignor Ciarán O’Carroll hosting it. This year, it was back in the Clubhouse and the Rector took part with Fr Joe Mullan, who is the Parish Priest of St Thérèse’s Mount Merrion and also the Parish Priest of St Laurence O’Toole’s Church in Kilmacud and the Church of the Miraculous Medal on Bird Avenue in Clonskeagh. He is a busy man! As he arrived shortly before COVID, we have not really had the chance to meet up and he is trying to build ecumenical relationships with the four different Church of Ireland parishes that his parishes overlap with, so it was good to meet recently for coffee, and to chat through what we might be able to do together.



Fr Joe Mullan

BISHOPS—ONE MOVED and ONE NEW!

At the end of October 2021, Bishop Kenneth Kearon (Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoc, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Kilmacduagh, Clonfert and Emlly) and Bishop Patrick Rooke (Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry) retired. Their respective retirements caused the amalgamation of those two dioceses into one new united diocese called the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. This amalgamation had been



Bishop Michael Burrows

worked towards by the two dioceses over a number of years, as declining numbers on the Western sea board, and amalgamations of parishes, meant a reduced number of cures. In fact, the Diocese of

Tuam, Killala and Achonry had only nine cures prior to the amalgamation of the dioceses. The new Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe is large—it extends from Skreen in County Sligo all the way down to Kenmare in County Kerry, and goes out west to all the ppeninsulas on the west coast. It embraces nine counties and three provinces. Bishop Michael Burrows, then Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory (comprising of Cashel, Waterford, Ossory, Lismore, Ferns

and Leighlin), was elected as Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe at the Electoral College, held in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on Friday 14th January 2022.

As his translation to Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe created an episcopal vacancy in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, an Electoral College had to be called for that diocese.

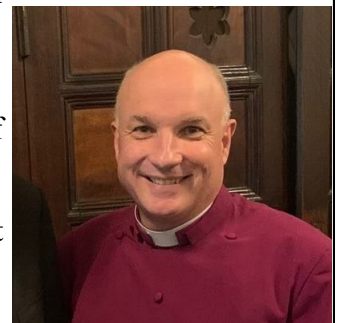
On Thursday 23rd June 2022, the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocese, was elected as the new Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. Adrian was also the Rector of Douglas Union in Cork, comprising of



Hands being laid on Adrian Wilkins on by the other bishops at his consecration

St Luke’s Church Douglas, St Michael’s Church Blackrock, Marmullane Church in Passage West and Holy Trinity Church in Frankfield. Adrian is no stranger to his new diocese as he grew up in Enniscorthy where his late father was Rector of Enniscorthy and

Archdeacon of Ferns. Adrian was consecrated (or episcopally ordained) on Sunday 30th October 2022 in Christ Church Dublin. He has begun his enthronements of which there will be six, one in each the diocesan cathedrals.



Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

EVENING BADMINTON IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' HALL... from 8pm

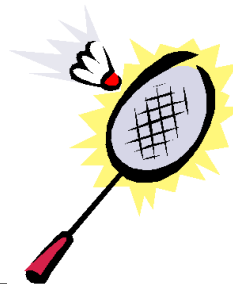


Now that Winter is upon us and the Autumn evenings fading, our thoughts turn to exercise and how to stay fit during those long winter evenings. The answer is easy...

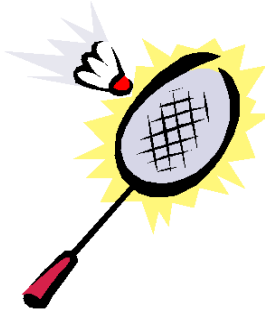
BADMINTON!!

You don't have to be a pro. Just a racquet and runners and off you go to St Philip and St James' Badminton Club, Cross Avenue, on Thursday evenings. Make new friends and have fun along with a good workout, what could be easier.

For further information contact Maureen at 01-2809826 or 086-3203849



MORNING BADMINTON IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' HALL



Do you like to get your exercise done early in the day?

Then Thursday morning badminton might be just the thing for you!

A bright and early start on Thursday mornings from 8.45am

For further information, please contact:

Gill Davis at 087-7857711



St Philip and St James' Whist

Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Canon Osborne Barr Room—All very welcome!

Contact Deirdre Kennedy 087-6283534

Parish 5-a-side Indoor Soccer

Monday and Wednesday nights in St Philip and St James' Parish Hall 8.30-9.30pm All welcome

Contact Dylan Rynhart at dylanrynhart@gmail.com or join the WhatsApp Group at



EMAIL! ... EMAIL! ... EMAIL!



Email is an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly way in which to communicate and get information out from the parishes to the parishioners. But, inevitably people tend to change their email addresses from time to time, and we also do not have email addresses for some parishioners who are on email. It would help us ENORMOUSLY if we were able to email you. If you do use email, please, email the Rector so that we can have our email address on our records and use it to communicate with you.

The Rector's email address: booterstown@dublin.anglican.org



PJ's Christmas Craic-er!

Saturday 10th December 2022

10.30-12.30



St Philip and St James' Church

***A Christmas Get-Together for chat and craic!
Tea/Coffee/Juice with Scones and Mince Pies,***

***Ice Cream, Raffle,
Bring-and-Buy Stall,
Pin-the-Tail-on-the-
Reindeer, Christmas
Lucky Dip... and...
Santa Claus.***



**Drop in
anytime
between
10.30 and
12.30**



CAROLS for PROTESTANT AID



Over the past years and with the increased cost of living this winter, we have been very conscious of the demands on Protestant Aid, which is a Protestant version of St Vincent de Paul. It does not differentiate between creed or ethnicity regarding those who it helps... although the name can be misleading. They are doing amazing work, helping families of all backgrounds and origins who are finding things tough.

To support their work, we will have a collection at the Carols by Candlelight Service in St Philip and St James' Church at 19.00 hours, on Sunday 18th December 2022, for Protestant Aid. The proceeds of the carol singing in the Blackrock Village Shopping Centre, will go to Dublin SIMON, and the collection from the Sunday night will go to Protestant Aid.

Protestant Aid helps families and individuals who are very much in need of financial assistance, and this situations arise from all sorts of circumstances: the economic down turn, ill-health, marriage breakdown, etc. They are often 'invisible', coping with acute financial stress caused by mounting debts or redundancy, and family pressures with little or no State aid.

Please note this appeal is not only to raise awareness of those in need, but also to make those in need aware that assistance is available.



Applications, which are means tested, may be made through the Rector or directly to Protestant Aid.



Collection for Protestant Aid
Sunday 18th December 2022 at 19.00 hours
St Philip and St James' Church



Carols by Candlelight

CAROL SINGING for DUBLIN SIMON



For many years, we have gone carol singing in aid of the Dublin SIMON Community until COVID put a stop to all of that. But this year, we are back! We will be carol singing in the Blackrock Village Shopping Centre (the one with SuperValu) on Friday 16th December 2022, 16.00-18.00. The plan is to do it in 'relays' with people singing up for a hour (or even thirty minutes!) as singing non-stop for two hours is rough on the voice!

It would be fantastic to get a HUGE response to this, and to do a little bit at Christmas for the homeless. This is one of those occasions where we are not asking for money—although of course, you may make a donation if you wish—we are asking you to give some time and some energy for others this Christmas.



Please put this in your diary. Bring your children, friends, etc., etc., to make a fantastic and enthusiastic sound for others! If you are concerned that your singing might not be wonderful, and you think that you cannot take part... no such excuse will be entertained!!!!

You can do an excellent job of holding—the Centre asks us not to rattle! - the collection boxes.

Carol Singing in aid of Dublin SIMON
Blackrock Village Shopping Centre

16.00—18.00 hours

Friday 16th December 2022



HELP FOR SANTA

Last year, we helped Santa, and he really appreciated it! It has continued to be a tough time and even more so this year. This year, we are again hoping to help Santa and try to make a difference to some children this Christmas through the Capuchin Day Centre. Due to COVID-19, the Capuchin Day Centre can only accept new toys, so I am asking if you could buy one or two small toys - they cannot be big toys as those families living in hotels or hostels, or in cars, do not have the room for anything big - and could you bring them to either of our churches on the following Sundays... if you are not able to attend the service, please aim to arrive at the end of the service to drop off the items:



© dreamstime.com ID 14755869 © AlexStilman

**Sunday 11th December 2022 to St Thomas' Church
which has a service at 10.00 (finishes at 10.40),
or to**

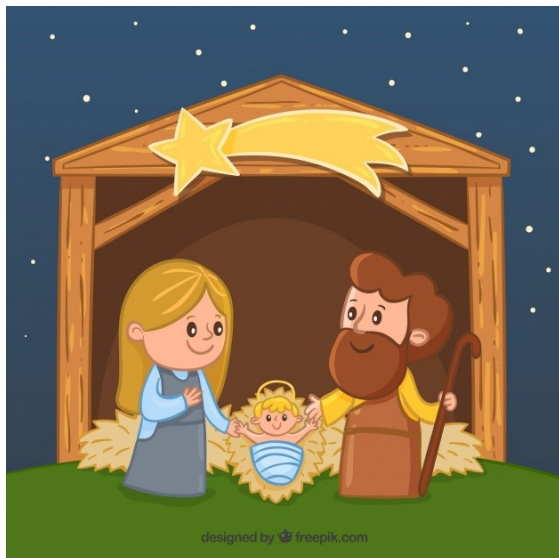
**St Philip and St James' Church which has a service
at 8.30 (finishes at 9.00), and at 11.00, (finishes at 11.45), and a Sausage
Service at 18.30 hours (finishes at 19.00).**

**I will also be in St Philip and St James' on Sunday 11th December 2022 to
receive your items 17.00-18.00, before the Sausage Service, and on Tuesday
13th December 2022, 19.00-20.00.**

I have to deliver the items into the Capuchin Day Centre on Wednesday 14th December 2022, so we have to have them before that day.

Santa needs long-johns, socks etc too!

Thank you too to those who have donated brand new pairs of long-johns (underwear) which have been hugely appreciated by The Alice Leahy Trust for their service users. As you can imagine, it is bitterly cold living on the streets at this time of the year. People have been very generous with donating long-johns and ski underwear, and we would be delighted to pass on more, new long-johns, new warm socks, new gloves and new hats. Warm jackets in good condition would also be great. See page 12.



***In working with Protestant Aid, the
Dublin SIMON Community and the
Capuchin Day Centre, we can give
a little love this Christmas, and
that is exactly what Christmas is...
God coming to earth in human
form because he loves us, and to
show us through Jesus Christ how
to love and to care.***

REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS



The Register of Vestrypersons is the ‘electoral roll’ of the parish. If you wish to be able to vote on parish matters, or in elections, such as at the Easter General Vestry, or if you wish to hold office in the parish as a churchwarden, glebewarden, member of the Select Vestry, Parochial Nominator or Diocesan Synodsperson, than you have to be on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the Churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is fill in the short, simple form, sign it, and give it to a Churchwarden.

The Register is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes. You may not be on more than one Register at any one time, so if you have moved recently and you wish to be included on the Register in one of our parishes, but you are already on the Register of Vestrypersons elsewhere, you would need to request your previous parish to have your name removed from their Register.

Being on the Register gives you the right to vote, it gives you a say in the decision-making process of our church— democracy is an important part of the Church of Ireland—cherish that right.



Currently, our representative bodies do not reflect the membership of the church and it is an issue that we are being encouraged to address. In order to be able to have the option to respond to that motion, we need a wide variety of people to ‘sign-up’ for the Register of Vestrypersons.

If you want to have your say and be able to vote, you have to be on the Register of Vestrypersons...

THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST

TRUST, now known as **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST** continues to do extraordinary work in difficult circumstances.

Our two parishes have an ongoing working relationship with **The Alice Leahy Trust**. **TRUST** was founded in 1975 and since then has been working with people who are homeless in Dublin. It is a non-political, non-denominational voluntary body which provides medical and related services for people who are homeless, operating out of a premises provided at a nominal rent by the Iveagh Trust. Up to 50 men (mostly men) and women call each morning, the majority of whom are sleeping out (aged 18 to 85 years). They need the following items:



MEN’S CLOTHING

Hoodies; jeans; track-suit bottoms; jumpers; water-proof jackets; long-johns (underwear—must be new); strong, sturdy shoes (preferably runners)

THEY ALSO NEED

pot noodles (preferably chicken); pot curries (preferably chicken); cup-a-soups; mini-bars (chocolate, etc.); toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, tooth-paste, toothbrushes, female hygiene products)



The items can be left at the back of either of the churches and they will then be taken into The Alice Leahy Trust.

Parishioners have been very generous over the years and it is very much appreciated. But we would ask you to think carefully about the items that you donate; these items must be appropriate and suitable for people who are living on the streets. High-heel shoes, cocktail dresses, bikinis, etc. are all items that have been left at the back of our churches and these are **NOT** suitable.

Thank you to Sheila Chamberlain from St Thomas’ and Viola Brady and Denise Richards from St Philip and St James’ who sort the items and to Viola Brady who liaises with The Alice Leahy Trust and takes the items into them.

Please continue to help—your generosity is much appreciated—but please ensure that you give suitable and appropriate items, as listed above.

Thank you!

BOOTERSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



We have had a busy few weeks in Booterstown National School. We had a dress-up fundraiser for Temple Street Children's Hospital and raised €161.

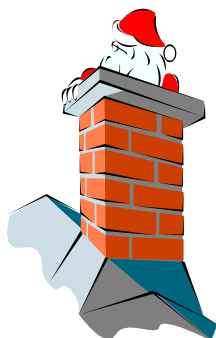
Thank you to Ms Keane for organising Maths week which included fun maths trails and activities for all students. Thank you to Mrs Prenter who organised Science week. Each class conducted science experiments in class and also attended a Forensic Science Workshop where they learned about DNA and fingerprint evidence. We also had a Sustainable Energy workshop for all students.

We set up student council elections this term. The children delivered well planned speeches and the children voted for two council members from each class. The council meets every fortnight. They have improved the football equipment for the school, organised a Fancy Friday for the students, where the students had to dress in their best!

We had some very smartly turned out students! They have also spoken at school assembly and they have plans in the new year to create a wildflower area and have a pyjama day at school.

Thank you to Dun Laoghaire Library for hosting our 5th and 6th class students recently. They attended a hilarious talk with author Dave Rudden and thoroughly enjoyed it. 5th and 6th class are also doing 6-week cycling training on cycling skills and road safety tips in partnership with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

A huge thank you to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) for helping us to improve our cooking facilities at school. We have purchased a cooker and oven and baking equipment. We are looking forward to getting started after Christmas.



On Friday 25th November 2022 we had a Christmas jumper day and our PTA provided popcorn for the students in anticipation of the Toy Show.

Our senior classes will be taking part in An Ecumenical Carol Service on Tuesday 13th December 2022 with St Mary's Boys National School and Our Lady of Mercy Convent National School, which this year, will take place in the Church of the Assumption on Booterstown Avenue. We look forward to meeting with other schools in our community. Our School Christmas Carol Service will take place on Friday 16th December at 12pm in St Philip and St James' Church.



Thank you to all who support our school community in so many ways and we wish you all a lovely Christmas.

Best wishes,

Emma Uí Shúilleabháin



GDPR—PARISHES' PRIVACY POLICY



The parishes are obliged to comply with GDPR. If you contact the Rector and want her to keep in touch with you by phone, or email, etc, or to have your contact details on our records, we need a completed GDPR Form from you. If you have not done so, please complete and return a GDPR Form now. Forms are available from the Rector.

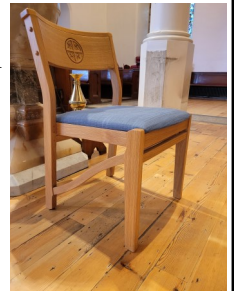
For further information on our GDPR policies please see www.booterstownchurch.ie or www.mountmerriionchurch.ie.

Click *About Us* and then on *Parish Privacy Policy*.

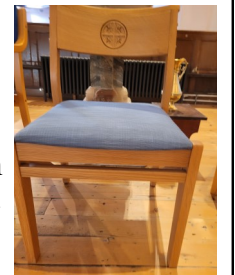
HEATING and ALTERATIONS PROJECT in ST PHILP and ST JAMES' CHURCH



Significant progress has been made in St Philip and St James' Church since the last photos and write-up about it in the Autumn edition of the newsletter—as may be seen from the photos. The wooden floors have been re-laid but at a lower level so that they are now flush with the aisle making those areas of the church accessible for all. The floors have been sealed and we have progressed on to looking at the next phase of the work to be done. In removing the pews from the east end of the nave and from some of both transepts, our desire was not to remove seating but to have seating that was more flexible, which could be arranged in a variety of ways and which would also facilitate those who are wheelchair users to be able to sit with the family and friends in the midst of the congregation rather than sitting in the aisle. The Select Vestry has been in discussions with Irish Contract Seating who are based in Dromod in County Leitrim—they are the same company that made the new Communion Table or Altar and the 'wedding chairs' in St Thomas' Church. Out of three samples, the Select Vestry has chosen the one called the Christ Church Chair and it is photographed here. The plan (and indeed, the advice from Irish Contract Seating) is to have the wood of the chair the same colour as the pews and the upholstery the same colour as the pew runners.



The logo that will be carved on the back-rest is our parish logo without the lettering. There will be a provision for a small brass plaque on the top of the back-rest, to facilitate an engraving if someone would like to donate a chair in memory of someone or as a gift to the church. The cost of a chair is €275 (including the brass plaque and engraving). If you would like more information about donating or sponsoring a chair, please contact the Honorary Treasurer, Quentin Teggin at qtteggin@gmail.com or the Rector. Irish Contract Seating are lending us 40 chairs until we take delivery of the bespoke chairs in the middle of 2023. In the meantime, we need to get other work done such as the hospitality and archival areas at the back under the gallery, emergency lighting, fire alarm and painting, and we need to keep fundraising for all of it.



Enormous thanks are due to Gordon Richards (St Philip and St James' Rector's Glebewarden) who is our project manager—his expertise as a quantity surveyor, his attention to detail and the time that he has given, and is giving, to this project are incalculable.



HEATING and SOUND SYSTEM in ST THOMAS' CHURCH

Matters with replacing the storage heaters in St Thomas' Church and installing two destratifiers are also progressing.

Quotes have been received and thanks to a very generous donation from the Montgomery Charitable Trust and a very generous bequest from the late Canon Bill Heney, we are able to go ahead with the work and look forward to the work being done asap. Thank you very much to Denis Beare (St Thomas' People's Glebewarden) who not only has been meeting with contractors and sorting quotes for this work but also looks after all matters of maintenance with regard to the Monk Gibbon Hall, the Monk Gibbon Hall Flat and Hipwell House.

Work is also progressing on the sound system in St Thomas' Church. Any work done on it has to incorporate the loop system and we are currently ensuring that, that is the case. Thank you to Dylan Rynhart and Mike Hayes (St Philip and St James' People's Glebewarden) both of whom not only looks after such things in St Philip and St James' Church but are helping out with this in St Thomas' Church too. We are looking forward to being able to hear everything loud and clear!

DUBLIN STAGE SCHOOL

(FORMERLY STAGECOACH)



Dublin Stage School started in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre in 1994 and we now have schools in Castleknock and Killiney. We are delighted to be a part of the St Philip and St James' community, through our part-time theatre schools in the Parish Centre. Our biggest success is giving students the chance to be creative in a fun, safe environment; to make new friends; for their confidence to grow and blossom; and to learn the many different, age appropriate challenging ways of the arts.



Our classes for 4 to 6 year-olds are our Juniors, and from 6 to 13 year-olds are our Seniors and our advanced class - which is on a Saturday only - is for those from 13/14 years up. The classes include lessons in dance, drama and singing on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in the Parish Centre.



Our Summer Camps were sold out in July 2022 and you can book online for Summer camps 2023 soon.

Any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us

Best Wishes,
Evan & Emma



Evan & Emma Holton | Managers | Dublin Stage School
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T: 01 2722276 | **M:** 086 8919240 | **M:** 086 0816866
E: info@dublinstageschool.ie | **W:** www.dublinstageschool.ie

UNITED SERVICE FOR DAFFODIL DAY



For the past number of years, following on from the Daffodil Coffee Morning held for many years by Florrie Halliday, we have held a Daffodil Service followed by a Coffee Morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society on the fourth Sunday of March. Due to COVID, we were not able to hold one in 2020 and 2021, but we did in 2022 and we are having one in 2023. We always have it on the fourth Sunday of March which is near Daffodil Day and at the service which will be at 10.30 in St Philip and St James' Church, we will be praying for those who are undergoing treatment for cancer, and for all who are involved in the healing and care of people with cancer; for those undertaking research into the treatment and cure of cancer; giving thanks for the recovery of those who have survived cancer, and remembering those who have died from cancer.

Afterwards, there will be a coffee morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society which will take place in the parish hall.

Sunday 26th March 2023 in St Philip and St James' Church at 10.30, followed by coffee morning in the parish hall.





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday 16th December 2022

12.00 Booterstown National School Carol Service
St Philip and St James' Church

Sunday 18th December 2022

08.30 Holy Communion
St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 A Quiet Christmas'
St Thomas' Church

11.00 Christingle Service
St Philip and St James' Church (*live-streamed*)

19.00 Carols by Candlelight
St Philip and St James' Church (*live-streamed*)

Wednesday 21st December 2022

10.30 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

Saturday 24th December 2022—Christmas Eve

23.30 The First Holy Communion of Christmas
St Thomas' Church

Sunday 25th December 2022 — Christmas Day

08.30 Holy Communion
St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 Family Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

10.30 Family Holy Communion
St Philip and St James' Church (*live-streamed*)

Sunday 1st January 2023

10.00 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion
St Philip and St James' Church (*live-streamed*)

NB. No 8.30 on this Sunday.

