



Dear Parishioners

The splendid Nativity ceiling fresco in St Quirinus Church, heralded by trumpet-blowing gilded putti, captures well the dynamism of the One who is Good News arriving in person on earth.

Without the gilded putti glistening in the light and drawing our attention to the fresco, the Nativity scene could be overlooked since it is segregated from the sweep of ceiling in the nave by the gallery. It is only visible as you exit the church. But then isn't that the message! Its up to us going out into the world to share the Good News.



Happy heralding this Christmas! *Adrienne*




*Christmas Blessings
from Rathfarnham Parish*

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

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22nd at 7pm
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 Dec 26th or Jan 2nd.

Each Sunday 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 1st 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Morning Prayer



Sunday 8th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2



Sunday 15th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Worshipping God Together and Gift Service.



Thursday 19th 7.30pm Remembering Loved Ones Service
Holy Communion 2



Sunday 22nd 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2
7pm Candelight Carol Service
Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards by students from The High School in aid of the Irish Red Cross Middle East Crisis Appeal. All welcome.



Tuesday 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
9pm Nativity Holy Communion



Wednesday 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
8am Holy Communion 1
10.30am Family Holy Communion
12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 29th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2

Sunday 5th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
January 2025 10.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 12th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2



Sunday 19th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Worshipping God Together



Sunday 26th 8am & 12 noon Holy Communion 1
10.30am Holy Communion 2



www.rathfarnhamparishcoi.org

Good News Club

We are delighted to be joined by Abigail Phelan and Heidi Cole who are assisting us as part of their Gaisce Award programme.

Good News Club is for 3-6th class children, Tuesdays 6.45pm-7.45pm, in the War Memorial Hall.

We'd love to see you there!

Adrienne 086 0390866.



Toddlerzone

November in Toddlerzone will be all about animals, even dinosaurs!

So join us for lots of hands-on sensory fun and chats in the Parish centre from 10-11.15am.

Our dates in December are Tuesdays 3rd and 10th, and our January dates are Tuesdays 14th, 21st and 28th.

Toddlerzone meets most Tuesday mornings during school term in the Parish Centre from 10-11.30am. If you would like to join us for some sensory play, story and sing-along, please get in touch. We welcome babies and toddlers with their mums, dads, grannies, grandads and minders, to name just a few, and would love to see you. So come and try us out. Linda O'Connor 087 638 3844, or Lynn Storey 087 695 7061



Acting out Acts 4



Tearing up the false idols



Sunday Club

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.

Dates for your Diary: Sunday Club in the Parish Centre

Sunday December 1st, Sunday December 8th, Sunday January 12th, Sunday January 26th.

Linda O'Connor, Mobile: 087 6383844

Email: linda.f.oconnor@gmail.com



Wednesday Club

Our next meeting will be on 29th January, at 2.30 pm, in our Parish Centre.

Our speaker will be Rev. Ruth Noble. She will speak on the topic of *"No-Dig Gardening"*. The usual Tea, Homebakes and Chat afterwards! All parishioners or friends are welcome to attend. David Whyte 087 782 6054



Remembrance Sunday



Cubs

The 31st Rathfarnham Cubs are growing in strength.

We now have a full troop of thirty-five 4th, 5th and 6th class boys. Since September the Cubs have enjoyed many night hikes and evenings up in Larch Hill exploring nature, playing games and learning how to build a fire and most importantly how to roast the perfect marshmallow. This month the Cubs displayed amazing teamwork and put together 20 **Team Hope Shoeboxes** which will be handed to children in Africa or Eastern Europe at Christmas.

Look out for the Cubs selling festive bakes and treats when you are selecting your Christmas tree from the Scouts in the carpark of the war memorial hall over the weekend of December 7th and 8th. Yours in Scouting, Hilary



Safeguarding Trust

The Panel met with new volunteers for Sunday Club and Toddlerzone who have completed training and are eager to get involved. We thank Julie and Sheila for volunteering their time and expertise. If this is an area of ministry you would consider, please speak to Rev. Mike, the leaders of the children's organisations or myself. AG

Ladybirds

Ladybirds have been having great fun and all our new ladybirds have settled in very quickly. We had a great time in the nature room and out and about in St Enda's park.



We learned that burdock seeds are very sticky and great fun to play with and many more new and interesting things in the natural world that surrounds us. We enjoyed making wreaths for the Harvest Service with fallen leaves and played lots of new fun games.

We are currently working on our water safety badge with a visit from Water Safety Ireland. This month we will be putting our shelter building skills to the test up the mountains with Brownies joining us and a trip into town to watch the Gaiety pantos.

We finish up for Christmas on the 14th of December with an indoor camping party, returning on the 11th of January. Ladybird Girl Guides is for girls aged five to seven years old. We meet on Saturdays 10.30am-11.30am.

Yours in guiding, Aisling O'Byrne 089 6033859

Rathfarnham Parish National School

3rd - 6th Class have been taking part in singing workshops with two members of the Christchurch Cathedral Choir every Thursday. This is a brilliant opportunity for the children to learn from such talented musicians. The children in these classes, and their parents, are invited to Christchurch Cathedral on the evening of Tuesday, 10th December for a special concert in which the children will take part. More details to follow soon.



It's hard to believe we're talking about the Christmas Fair already! This year, our Fair will take place on Friday, 6th December from 8.20am - 12 noon. Eoin Leonard, Principal

Church Review 2025

The subscription for 'Church Review' for 2025 has increased to €45 due to escalating paper prices and operating costs of production. 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 01 493 7179 / 085 713 5848 before 31st December. If anyone would like to receive or discontinue receiving the magazine from January 2025, contact me before 5th January. Many thanks, Pam Shorten.

Church Gazette 2025

The subscription for 2025 for the monthly format Church of Ireland Gazette is unchanged at €52.50 and is now due. Please contact Andrew Shorten on 01 493 7179 or 087-774 8208 if you would like to take a copy.

Thank You!

A Thank you letter has been received from the Jigsaw Centre (Kelda Barnes) for the groceries and food received from our harvest collection of nonperishables and veg. To all who donated foods or monies towards providing nourishing meals for the children - THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Abigail and Heidi are very grateful to all who donated to their pop-up collection on Sunday 17th Nov after the 10.30am service in aid of Merchants' Quay homeless shelters. An amazing €487 was collected in 30 mins! Thank you everyone.



On Tuesday 3rd, 10th and 17th December, Rev Mike will lead us in our Advent meditations in the Millennium Side Chapel at 8.15pm -9.15pm.

Mike writes:

Contemplative or Imaginative Prayer is a form of prayer made popular by Ignatius Loyola and is associated primarily with the Jesuit Order. It is a means of engaging with Scripture in a deeper fashion, through the meditative use of our God-given gift of imagination.

The practice allows one to fully inhabit a passage of Scripture by the careful use of our senses, and with careful guidance, and with continued practice can quite often lead to a deeper understanding of the passage or even sometimes, a personal insight.

In simple terms the session can last from 45 minutes to one hour, and generally involves four (4) readings of a passage. As each reading progresses, participants are guided to explore, to consider, and to inhabit the passage more closely and in a more reflective way,

Each reading is separated by 6-8 minutes of personal, reflective meditative space, and the session ends with an open discussion on the passage, and on any insights/observations which may come to the fore. Active participation in this discussion is entirely voluntary, although encouraged! This Advent Season we will be exploring passages which are appropriate to the season, beginning with Luke Chapter 1 and the Annunciation and Mary's response. MB.

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 Thursday Dec. 5th & 12th or Sunday Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th.** 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).





Parish Picture Gallery



2024 Winter Fair, Saturday November 23rd.

Undeterred by Storm Bert, the Rathfarnham Winter Fair went ahead with a few minor adjustments and some excellent tethering of the parish marquee and the Whyte's party tent, which remained in place until taken down!

The temperature was mild, which was a good thing, as the crowds gathered not just to hear the brilliant Rathfarnham Ukulele Group, but also to have a few words with An Taoiseach himself, Simon Harris, who graced us with his presence! Outside, there was mulled wine and church music, hot chocolate and 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 the clothes stall did a brisk trade. As ever, the cake stall and larder stole the show though the book stall gave them plenty of competition. Our guest traders kept warm and dry inside the church itself, and we were delighted to have them back again. Huge thanks to the wonderful Rathfarnham Women's Shed and to Rathfarnham Tidy Towns who had spent weeks knitting, potting and crafting to prepare gifts to sell and donate.

Thank you to those of you who donated raffle prizes - Teegan's Treats, McCormack's Jewellers, SaraRae Designs, the Scouts, garden wizard Anne - and so many more.

Our new venture into lavender products also went well, only a few of the Churchyard Lavender Sleep Kits remain.

Mrs Claus and Santa were back in action and massive thanks to them and their brilliant elves from The High School, who kept order in Santa's workshop waiting room.

The set-up team, the clean-up team, Paul, Jacqueline and the choir who kept the music flowing, the car park organisers, Lynn McCrave, the Rev and the Canon, the lads who carried out all the gazebos, only to carry them back in, the helpers, the James family team, the unseen bakers, makers and crafters - all deserve a massive, massive thank you for making this 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 over **€7,000!** Well done one and all! *Gill Perdue*





Parish Picture Gallery



Our 'Handover' service for parents and their Confirmation candidates will be on Sunday December 1st at 6.30pm in the church. Other dates for classes are 8th and 15th December, resuming on 12th January 2025. Any parishioner in 1st year secondary school is welcome. Please contact Rev Mike or myself for enrolment forms. AG



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*"Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse."* Clement Clarke Moore

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all
the people."* Luke 2:10

*"It's coming on Christmas, they're cutting down
trees. They're putting up reindeer and singing songs
of joy and peace."* Joni Mitchell, *River*

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."
Isaiah 9:6

*"What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a
store. What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a
little bit more!"* The Grinch, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Parish Lending Library

In the Parish Library recent additions for children, selected by Linda O'Connor include: ***What Every Child Should Know About Prayer*** by Nancy Guthrie.



Nancy explains in child-friendly language what prayer is. How and why we should pray, and the things we can pray about. This book will introduce children to the gift of prayer and will encourage them to enjoy speaking to God our Father. Nancy writes: "We have lots of choices to make as we live in this world. Sometimes we're not sure what is right.



We need wisdom from God to know what to do. God has promised that if we pray for wisdom, he will give it to us." Another book in this series is ***Everyone a Child Should Know*** by Clare Heath-Whyte. This is a lovely book to read to young children. It introduces them to some of the men and women in history whose lives have been influenced by their faith in Jesus. It ends with ***'You can be Jesus's friend too'***. The library is in the Millennium Side Chapel, and details regarding borrowing books are above the bookshelf. JF

Parish Contacts

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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

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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	Corinna O'Dwyer	087 666 3594
National School	Principal Eoin Leonard	01 494 3470
Church Review	Pam Shorten	01 493 7179
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