



# CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES

St Peter's, Carrigrohane  
St Senan's, Inniscarra  
The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney  
The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig

[www.cupcork.ie](http://www.cupcork.ie)  
021-4877260

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020**



At the top of the page you'll see the new version of the CUP logo – with four different colours around the cross, signifying the four worshipping communities in the Union of Parishes.

The colours are reflected in The Carraig Centre logo!

Work is proceeding well – this photo is the main hall looking towards the entrance!



the  
**carraig  
centre**  
building hope together

Dear Friends,

Life is full of surprises and here are a few of them.

### **Surprise One.**

I am frequently surprised by God and the trust He puts in us - that He actually believes in us. I am still amazed that, to quote the apostle Paul, God "...is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus..." (i)

It was six years ago the Vision Development Group worked through a process that led to Vision 2015-18 which included the long held dream to have a meaningful presence in Ballincollig. Now six years later, we see a key plank in that vision working out, as the work on the Carraig Centre building comes to a close, and we are planning the move out of the Parish Centre on Church Hill.

To see something of the scale of what God is doing amongst us, I look back to what I wrote in Connect in January 2015 - the year we started working towards Vision 2015-18. It reminds us of the experiments we made about the styles of our worship services and the challenge of change.

#### ***Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom (Connect - January 2015)***

*Nature's clocks are turning and deep underneath the soil new life is starting, ready for a "Thousand Flowers to Bloom" (2).*

*This experience has its parallel as we step into Vision 2015-18. Beginning with our medley of Sunday Services, the cold winds of doubt and uncertainty could make us insulate ourselves and shut the door to change. Our body clocks have to adjust to a new time. The mental compass may spin around the dial as we reconfigure the co-ordinates as to which service we are going to. It all can feel like the cold ground of winter. But as the soil of January contains the seeds of new life, for us this can be a time for God to prepare us to "Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom" (2).*

*But let's not prejudge what God might do. For these "thousand flowers" may look like the random sowing of a wild seed garden when you can never be sure what will emerge, rather than a glorious display of well-planned flower beds. We wait on what God wants us to "Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom" for His kingdom, as "The Church is...God's experimental garden on earth, a fragment of the reign of God, having the first fruits of the Spirit...."*

*So we will need prayer and much giving and forgiving, grace filled honesty and a discerning that looks below the surface. In fact it will require each of us personally to seek a renewed vision of Jesus for our lives.*

So the scale of what we are doing in Ballincollig surprises me. But even more encouraging is what I see God has been doing among us. For all of the many challenges, I see new life in our relationships, in “will do” attitudes to serve, and “flowers blooming” where I didn’t expect them.

## **Surprise 2**

Many gathered in St Peter’s for Rosemary Hickey’s funeral on the 10<sup>th</sup> January. It was a few months late. She had felt strongly for some while that she was going to die in September 2019!

Such was Rosemary’s ability to surprise us with her unique slant on life. No wonder so many have commented on what a wonderful service it was – a celebration of her life and a foretaste of heaven. Utterly unique, Rosemary cared deeply; her passion unmatched; a life of God’s grace; always learning. A work of His grace and who, in humility, would give praise to the wonder of the God of surprises!



## **Surprise 3**

Once again God blessed us with the visit of Russ Parker. This time with a Listening Course based on Christian Biblical insights and we were all the richer for it. Many felt the surprise of how good it was to be *actually* heard because others listened. It brought home the importance of listening as something that brings healing, but which doesn’t need trained experts. It is for everybody.

On the following Monday in the Parish Centre, at a gathering of the Diocesan clergy, lay workers, and lay readers, Russ took the subject a bit further, by looking at Listening to our Group stories as Ireland commemorates the events



that led to the birth of a self-governing democratic country. While we needed more time, we learned enough to taste how healing listening can be even at a wider community level.

It resonated in a simple way with how in the last while I have had a number of group conversations with our CUP members, which have simply started along the lines “What does it mean to be living in Ireland for you”. I would love to hear from others who might like to be part of the conversation. It is therapeutic for us, and helps us to understand our sense of identity and the identity of those around us; a prerequisite to healing in the nation.

#### **Surprise 4**

Once I turned 60 in 2014 it was no surprise that the next stage in my life would be retirement. And so at the Select Vestry meeting in January I announced my retirement. Social media did the rest so most of you hopefully know by now, and that this note isn't a surprise.

There is much that I could say. But there will be time for that as the date of my retirement on the 31<sup>st</sup> July draws near. In the meantime, I am looking forward to the next few months at the revealing of the surprises God has for each of us.

***Ian***

1. *Ephesians 3 v 20-21*
2. *Robert Warren “Being Human being Church”*
3. *David Bosch “Transforming Mission”*



#### **PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS:**

**The Parish Office is closed Mondays and open on: *Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm; and Wednesdays 9.30 am – 5.30 pm.***

Phone: 4877260 - [office@cupcork.ie](mailto:office@cupcork.ie)

Rector: Ian Jonas – 4871106 - [ian@cupcork.ie](mailto:ian@cupcork.ie)

Associate Minister: Robert Ferris – 4516620 - [robert@cupcork.ie](mailto:robert@cupcork.ie)

Youth Workers: Matt & Katie Gould – 085-1080067 - [youth@cupcork.ie](mailto:youth@cupcork.ie)

WEBSITE: [www.cupcork.ie](http://www.cupcork.ie) & find us on Facebook!

## **CALENDAR - CUP**

**Thursday 30 January:** 7.30 refreshments for 8 pm start - Blarney Missional Community Meeting. An opportunity to celebrate what has been happening in the parish, to input into what we need to be doing in the future.

**Friday 31 January:** 'Glow Max', 7.30-9.30 pm in the Parish Centre

**Saturday 1 February:** Seth Mulder & Midnight Run - Bluegrass Band concert at St. Senan's, Inniscarra - 8.00 p.m. Admission €15.00. For pre-booking tickets 0877921771

**Sunday 2 February:**

9.30 am a said service of Holy Communion - St Peter's, Carrigrohane

11 am United Celebration in the Parish Centre

5.30-7.30 pm – Sunday PM in the Parish Centre

**Monday 3 February:** Select Vestry meeting in The Glade at 8 pm

**Saturday 8 February:** General Election – Parish Centre used for voting!

**Sunday 9 February:**

9.30 am Morning Prayer - St Peter's, Carrigrohane

11 am Holy Communion - Blarney; 11 am Morning Prayer - St Senan's, Inniscarra

11 am Sunday AM with Adventurers in the Parish Centre

Visit of CMSI –Jenny Smyth to parish today.

5.30-7.30 pm – Sunday PM in the Parish Centre

**Friday 14 February:** 'Glow' from 7-9 pm in the Parish Centre

**Sunday 16 February:**

9.30 am Holy Communion – St Peter's, Carrigrohane

11 am Reflective Worship, St Senan's, Inniscarra

11 am Sunday AM with Adventurers

**Friday 21 February: *Family Fun Morning*** at 10 am in Blarney Secondary School - *If you would be interested in helping out please let Robert know.*

**Sunday 23 February:**

9.30 am Holy Communion with prayer for healing – St Peter's, Carrigrohane;

11 am A Service of the Word, Blarney;

11 am Holy Communion, St Senan's, Inniscarra

11 am Sunday AM with Adventurers followed by a BRING & SHARE lunch – all welcome!

**Monday 24 February:** Select Vestry meeting (with Revision of General Vestry Roll) at 8 pm in The Glade, Inniscarra

**Wednesday 26 February:** Ash Wednesday Service at 8 pm - St Peters, Carrigrohane

**Friday 28 February:** 'Glow Max', 7.30-9.30 pm in the Parish Centre

**Sunday 1 March:**

9.30 am a said service of Holy Communion - St Peter's, Carrigrohane

11 am United Celebration in the Parish Centre

5.30-7.30 pm – Sunday PM in the Parish Centre

## **PRAYERS PLEASE...**

- For the completion of the work on ***The Carraig Centre***, including safety for all those involved, and for a smooth transition from the Parish Centre for the office, the ministries and worship, and the existing and new tenants.
- For the on-going ***worship and activities*** in all our congregations – in St Peter's, St Senan's, & Blarney including The Lighthouse and the Eco plans throughout the parish.
- For the ***home groups*** meeting throughout the Union of Parishes.
- For ***Ian and Gail***, following the news of Ian's retirement on 31 July – for their preparations and for a happy and fruitful last few months in the parish.
- ***Holiday Bible Club 2020 – in The Carraig Centre from July 7-10 (with July 6 as a team training day) – and a family BBQ event on July 10 in the afternoon/evening.*** We are excited about all the opportunities we will have to connect with children and their families through this week, to share God's good news with them and to build relationships and connect people with ministry that will be going on in the parish throughout the year. We'd really love to have as many people praying for us and for the community as we plan and prepare, during the week itself, and in the months afterwards as we try and follow up and help people connect with anything they are interested checking out. If you'd be interested in getting a monthly email with prayer points for the Holiday Bible Club then let Katie know - we would love to have your prayers! A few prayer points currently would be:
  1. for a team of people with different gifts and skills who are able to help (so many different roles: prayer team, refreshments, organising the BBQ, leading children's small groups, arts and crafts, presenting and teaching up front, car park organising, admin, registration, connecting with parents and families, music, tech, cleaning up and more)
  2. as we choose the teaching material
  3. for the community - that God would be working in people's lives and hearts and that they will want to come
  4. for The Carraig Centre - that it will be ready!





## CONGRATULATIONS

to Ruth Hockey on winning the Hall of Fame Award at Blarney Person of the Year! She had been Blarney Person of the month in January 2019! This was all in recognition of her work for more than 20 years with Blarney Toddlers – so it's also congrats and THANK YOU to the team, both now and through all the many years!





**Thank you to everyone for all the special Christmas celebrations & worship – from Lighthouse Special to St Peter’s neighbourhood food & carols, Blarney Community Carol service, Senior’s lunch, Inniscarra Carol service and Festive food & music afternoon – to the Adventurers’ Christmas special at Sunday AM !**

